Fourth Anniversary Issue

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 5, NO. 1 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MAY 1994 • FREE

"When you are aware of the fact that 'you have,' you can give." George Bernard Shaw

Homeless Advocates Pursue Federal Building Renovation

Greg Hohnholt

A development team of homeless advocates, which includes the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), the Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement (SCHEMe), and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority (AHA), is presently applying for a Housing Trust Fund grant to rehab the Federal Building on Capitol Way into a self-managed, transitional housing complex. The proposal, which aims to provide up to 37 individuals with Single Resident Occupancy (SRO) housing, was presented on April 8th to the General Service Administration (GSA), who are offering the building for homeless use under the McKinney Act.

This is the second time that the Federal Building has been sought under this 1987 legislation, which makes surplus government buildings available to eligible nonprofit organizations for free. The Housing Authority of Thurston County (HATC) was the first nonprofit that attempted to acquire the building for use as a "Family Support Center," but the GSA later rescinded the deed offered to the HATC in February when the HATC failed to meet the timeline agreed upon in their proposal. During the Sylvester Park encampment in March, SCHEMe began negotiations with the Department of Community Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED) to acquire the building for use as a shelter. With the additional help and expertise of LIHI and its associated service providers such as AHA and Catholic Community Services, the proposal evolved into a *self-managed* transitional housing complex, similar to the 10 other LIHI transitional housing projects that have already proven to be successful in the Seattle area.

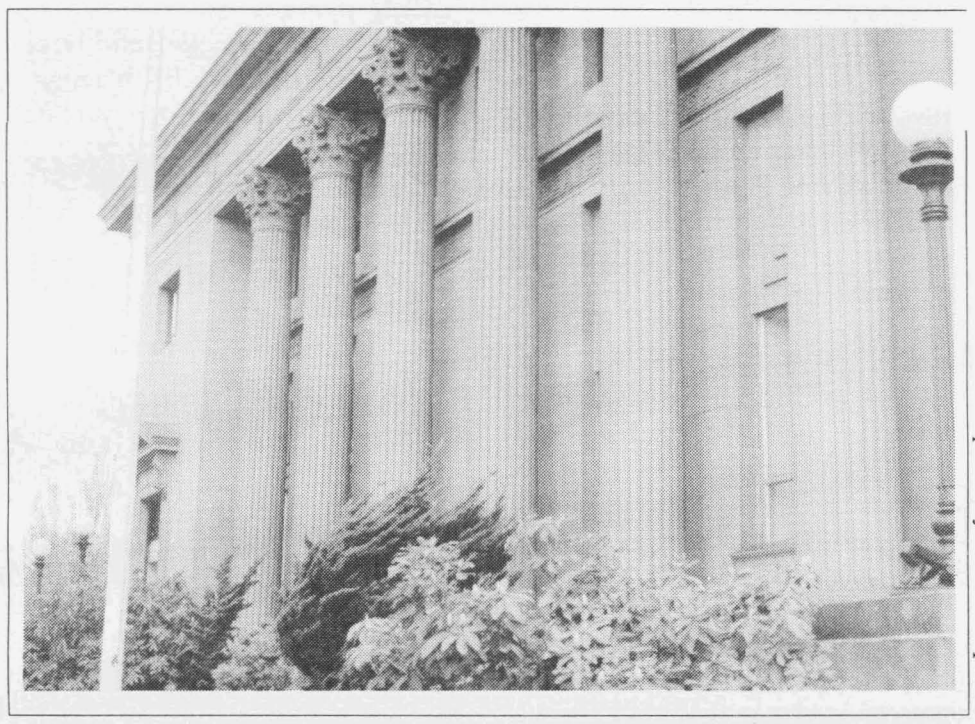

photo by Dave Campbell

City/Business Opposition

Although the Federal Building project complies with one of the top priorities of the City of Olympia's own 1994 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), local politicians and business owners are opposing this new proposal. The CHAS report stipulates that the city "expand the supply of transitional housing...and expand housing options and related services to underserved special needs populations," yet political factors over and above the needs of the homeless are making the success of this project less than probable.

Local politicians, especially those serving on the Homeless Services Community Task Force (HSCTF), have expressed open resentment toward the State's intervention in what they consider to be a problem to be handled by local service providers and themselves. In addition, a group of local business owners named Citizens Agree To Speak, or CATS (formerly known as CAST, or Citizens Afraid to Speak the Truth), has seen fit to print up and distribute a flyer which seeks to garner public opposition to the Federal Building proposal.

... a group of local business owners named Citizens Agree To Speak, or CATS...has seen fit to print up and distribute a flyer which seeks to garner public opposition to the Federal Building proposal.

Now what? One reporter's opinion

This project, like any other innovative project that challenges the traditional "top-down", hierarchical problem-solving approach of the status quo, needs a lot of grass roots support to be a success. The politicians on the Task Force, however, chose to do most of their work with the perception that *they alone* have the power to institute changes in people's lives. When County Commissioner Dick Nichols told the homeless audience to "Shut up and let the Task Force do its work", he was, in fact stating implicitly that the homeless were not going to be an active, ongoing participant in any

(Continued back page)

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Emma Hendrickson

"In Florida a corps of children and adults exists who are not obviously psychotic as we typically picture the insane, but then they are not quite in touch with the world they inhabit either. Their lives are stark in intellectual content and bare of any memories and instilled values. The really unfortunate ones are too intelligent to qualify for social programs available to the retarded. They are smart enough to get into trouble, but too defective in intelligence and foresight to realize the consequences of their actions. They are insane, yet they go to prison where they are victimized by the more cunning inmate population, or they sit on death row awaiting execution." David A. Davis

Each year over 40,000 children are born in the U.S. with a birth defect that impairs their ability to dream, to imagine, to empathize, and to obey the law. Even the death penalty is no deterrence. This birth defect is know as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

Twenty years ago when FAS was first named, it was thought mainly to affect children of chronic alcoholics. Since then, it has been reported that as little as two or three drinks during a woman's pregnancy can cause severe damage. The damage to the brain is irreversible and mani-

(Continued on page 14.)

"Regardless of their intelligence, the defective youths suffer significant deficiencies which directly control their ability to obey the law."

David A. Davis

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WIP Celebrates Four Years

Welcome to our Fourth Anniversary Issue of *Works In Progress*. This past year has seen a lot of quality and consistent reporting on various issues. To celebrate our Fourth Anniversary, this year *Works In Progress* chooses to point out aspects of the embedded and institutionalized injustices that exist in our community and our society. With that in mind, *WIP* is proud to present this year's Works In Progress Community Awards to three individuals and one group in recognition and acknowledgment of their leadership contributions in educating others and working towards positive social change in our community.

For our upcoming fifth year, the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and *Works In Progress* was recently awarded funds from the Community Sustaining Fund towards the purchase of a laser printer, which will of course be made available to individuals and groups working towards positive social change. If you have an interest in the printer's use, call Pat at 705-2726. We hope this will become a great resource to the community.

Works In Progress would also like to take the time to thank the subscribers, donators, and advertisers who have over the years made WIP possible.

Works In Progress Awards Community Leaders

• In recognition of the consistency of their informational leafletting and the quality of their reporting son the boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle on behalf of farmworkers, we acknowledge the Olympia Farm Workers Justice Committee as a leader in educating others and working towards positive social change in our community.

The OFWJC began as a project of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace. In the summer of '91, Tomas Villanueva, then president of the UFW, asked the OMJP to assist in spreading information of their struggle. After a trial period, the OMJP decided to continue on with it; and three years later the OFWJC boasts over twenty restaurants honoring the boycott and one of the, if not the, most educated areas on the boycott. They worked with church groups, students, and unions. They have been successful at putting pressure on Chateau Ste Michelle by informing businesses and consumers of the farm workers' working and living conditions. OFWJC has done some tracking of legislative bills, held rallies, marches, conferences, and an annual protest at St. Martin's Wine Festival.

They continue to hold pickets twice a week, and feel themselves connected to other labor issues as they showed by walking the line with Westwater workers.

The coordination of volunteers started out with Peter Bohmer and Sheila Payne, then Paul Ortiz, and now has been delivered over to others including a TESC intern, Josh Remis, UFW worker Teresa Poor, and Todd Crosby.

• In recognition of the quality of her series of articles exploring diversity, we acknowledge D. Maia Huang as a leader in educating others and working towards positive social change in our community.

WIP honors Olympia activist/poet Maia for her work in "Breaking Silence," her series of articles on abuse survivors, people with disabilities, and the plight of poor people. She is also the coordinator of an anthology project written by local people of color, soon to be published.

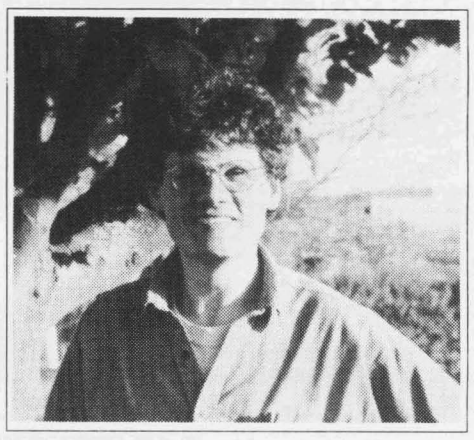
• In recognition of his homeless activism and the quality of his journalistic and editorial skills in *Homeless News and Views*, we acknowledge Greg Hohnholt as a leader in educating others and working towards positive social change in our community.

Greg began working on the homeless issue as a way of being politically active. Following his WIP interview with Bob Sieber, he began working at the First Baptist Church Shelter, which had just opened six weeks previously. A little over a year later his work with SCHEME led him to conceive *Homeless News & Views*.

He thinks a self-managed shelter along the lines of Seattle's Aloha Inn would empower Olympia's homeless. "In his view, the top-down social services type of probem solving approach keeps people helpless by motivating them to abuse the system."

Greg is also the innovator of the Street Karoake Project, now in its second year. You may have seen him in Art Burst, where he said, "it was the best day we ever had. If it wasn't for me breaking a string, I would never have had a rest."

Greg plans to continue to write and do Street Karoake, and hopes one day to write for NPR or a magazine like Harpers'. But for now watch



next month's issue of HN & V for "Where They Are Now Stories" of some of the homeless, and sing with him on the streets of Olympia on the weekends.

• In recognition of the consistent quality of her reporting on the Religious Right and Queer Rights, we acknowledge Joli Sandoz as a leader in educating others and working towards positive social change in our community.

Joli always wanted to be a writer and when the challenge to queer rights became such an issue, she couldn't hold back because it is too

dangerous an issue and too close to her. She has two masters degrees and was trained as a scholar. She approaches writing from research and history. She would like to be a professional writer and researcher. She would love to be paid for social justice work because it is the most satisfying and money would allow her to pursue it full time. Joli is currently working on two books: a family history and an environmental history.

WIP Author Wins Award

The Washington Press Association recently awarded Olympia writer Joli Sandoz a first place in its 1993 Professional Challenge of Excellence competition. Sandoz' winning entry in the small, non-daily news writing category, "Gay Rights Opposed in Washington State," appeared in September, 1993 *WIP*.

Help Works In Progress celebrate four years in print!!!

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Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Jerome Johnson	Dave Campbell
Zachary D. Lyons	Evelyn Montague
Marvin Saillard	Teresa Jennings
Pat Tassoni	Chris Russo
Greg Hohnholt	Sylvia Smith
Marie Smith	Dave Zink

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Along the Color Line

The Politics of Identity

Dr. Manning Marable

A central question in the cultural aspirations of oppressed people is the issue of identity—how we see ourselves sets the parameters for what we can become.

Identities can often heal and empower us. In my own family, "names" have conveyed incredible psychological and cultural power. Our names make certain statements about tradition and heritage, our aesthetics and sense of collectivity, our vision and ultimate purpose in life.

At the age of nine, my great-grandfather Morris Robinson was sold on an auction block in West Point, Georgia, in 1854—sold by his own white, slavemaster father. The white owner who purchased him was named Marable. So Morris Robinson became, by accident of sale, Morris Marable. At the end of the Civil War, when Morris fled the plantation, he took something else from the white Marable beside his name—two huge oxen and forty dollars in gold. This was, for Morris, probably an early version of "affirmative action." But like chitterlings, the pig's intestines which white folks discarded and which sustained countless black households for generations, Morris took Marable's name and turned it into his own.

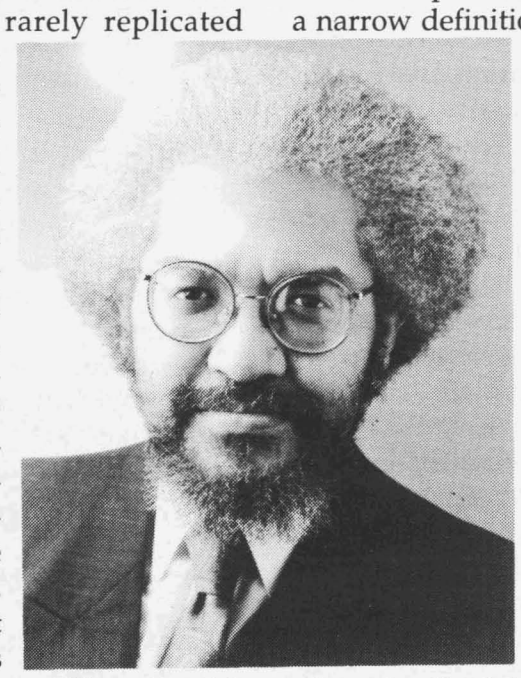
My youngest daughter was named for Sojourner Truth, the great abolitionist and freedom fighter for our people. The name itself has influenced "Soji" to become a poet, a young public speaker, and to participate in public demonstrations—all before the age of fifteen. If our identity inspires and challenges us, we can remake ourselves and become a people of courage and vision.

But identities may also severely hinder us. If we construct artificial barriers of language, sexuality, or tradition between human beings, we can end up perpetuating stereotypes, instead of communicating with each other. Identity is a door through which we may encounter another dimension of the human experience. But that should only be the beginning, not the end, of our interaction and exploration of each other's values, traditions and cultures. No single group has a monopoly on "truth", "wisdom" or "beauty." No culture should ever be measured in hierarchical terms, as being "high" or "low."

The politics of narrow identity, of "us" vs. "them", is always inherently reactionary. Consider the controversial speech of Khalid Abdul Muhammad at Kean College last year, which was nothing less than a vicious anti-Jewish diatribe. He referred to Jews as "bloodsuckers" who deserved the Holocaust. But he also described homosexuals as "faggots" and focused much of his attack against mainstream black leadership. Similarly, Farrakhan has attacked feminism as a "threat" to black manhood, and even justified boxer Mike Tyson's rape of a black woman. A central theme of such rhetoric—the sexism, anti-semitism, homophobia, and reactionary nationalism—is hatred.

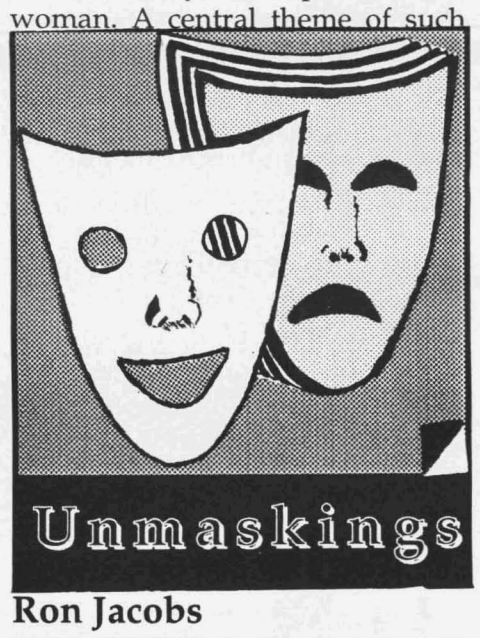
Our struggle must be to destroy the oppressive institutions of racism and the very idea of race itself, while maintaining our cultural heritage and identity of struggle.

But what bothers African-Americans and other people of color is that the demands for us to condemn Farrakhan are rarely replicated among whites when they must confront heir own hate-filled demagogues. When David Duke vehemently attacked black people, winning a majority of whites' votes in Louisiana in his campaigns for governor and the Senate, the U.S. Senate did not issue statements of condemnation. When Patrick Buchanan indulges in frequent race-baiting, homophobic and sexist rhetoric, there is no call for white male leaders to denounce one of their own. When Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina described African diplomats as "cannibals", the Senate said nothing. Why the double-standard on hatred?



Farrakhan's popularity is rooted in the deep dissatisfaction and alienation felt within the African-American community toward white power. Despite all of our efforts, we are losing ground in the struggle for equality. Our "race" becomes the essential vehicle through which we seek to assert our humanity and struggle for self-respect. Yet if we define our politics simplistically, as a narrow definition of ourselves—whether as African-Americans or Latinos only, or working people or women only, or Christians or Jews only—we surrender any hope for creating an agenda to liberate all people who are oppressed. Our struggle must be to destroy the oppressive institutions of racism and the very idea of race itself, while maintaining our cultural heritage and identity of struggle. We cannot accomplish this by denigrating others. The farthest boundaries of our identity should never stop until reaching the horizons of a common humanity.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor if History and Political Science, and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University. Along the Color Line *appears in over 250 publications and is broadcast by 75 radio stations internationally.* ✷



Ron Jacobs

Culture and the Cashbox

"Money doesn't talk, it swears."–
Bob Dylan

The beginning of this year's professional baseball season and the tragic death of Kurt Cobain led me to ponder, once again, money and American popular culture. Our need for culture cum entertainment, whether obtained by following the simple intricacies of players batting and throwing a small leather-covered ball around an arbitrarily sized grassy diamond, or by losing oneself in the anarchic throes of a driving rock tune, is virtually universal. Because it is universal, capitalism, in its typical fashion, figured out a way to make a buck from it. Lots of them.

Just as the major league owners are big time money dealers, so are the entertainment heads who own and control the rock music business. Before the days of free agency in sports, the owners were able to control their players' destinies. Not just their salaries, but where (and whether) they played. In the early days of rock, record company moguls acted in a similar manner to musicians when they signed bands for as little money as possible, then charged outrageous studio and tour rates, and kept most of the profits.

When both industries' profits rocketed into the capitalist stratosphere-mirroring the entire entertainment industry-players of baseball and guitars received larger contract (after numerous battles with the front office), but only after the moneylenders insured themselves even larger profits.

In a world where anything which can be packaged and sold is packaged and sold, those with talent must be wary of being commodified.

This trend of rewarding the creators of our culture with large sums of money has created not only the Air Jordans of the world, it also spawned those who might have been better off without such riches. No longer does Bruce Springsteen sing about the gritty streets of Jersey factory towns, instead he laments the life of the Beverly Hills millionaire. For those unwilling or unable to change their perspective so radically, the result is often tragic (a la Cobain or Darryl Strawberry).

In a world where anything which can be packaged and sold is packaged and sold, those with talent must be wary of being commodified. Kurt Cobain, for all his outbursts and self-centered lapses, knew this. He was an honest human being, as many in the Northwest know. In 1991, an antiwar group aligned with the Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition asked Nirvana to do a benefit fundraiser against the American slaughter in the Gulf. Kurt said yes immediately. (As it turned out, this benefit was the most successful, both in terms of attendance and money raised.) In his interviews and his music, his concern for, and identification with, those of us who aren't in control of the world is very apparent. It is a shame he will never again have what he termed the "comfort of being sad." Which seems better than no comfort at all. ✷

Wise Use Moves into Electoral Politics

Paul de Armond

About three years ago, our county suffered from soaring taxes due to poorly planned development. Whatcom county (NW Washington on the Canadian border) had been small in population (less than 80 thousand) and rural. Most of the economy was in salmon fishing, timber, farming and dairy. We still have, at least among the surviving dairy farmers, one of the highest milk per acre production rates in the U.S.

In the early 70s, the urban growth of Vancouver and the par exchange rate caused an influx of Canadian money and outside commercial development. Speculative housing developments (mostly for Canadian vacation homes) and shopping centers for the Canadian trade fueled a series of real estate booms and busts driven by a combination of U.S. interest rates and changes in the Canadian exchange rate. What had been one of the nicest little towns on Puget Sound started to have cyclic depressions with unemployment sometimes soaring as high as 20%. But Bellingham was still a nice place to live; people left their houses unlocked, rent was low. Even in bad times, we liked it.

Each of the cycles, though, left its mark. As the shopping centers grew up along the interstate, each bust would drive locally-owned businesses into closing their doors and the chain stores would stay. By the mid-80s, the largest shopping mall in the state blessed us. Weekend population surged by 30-50% as the weekend shoppers came over the border from Canada. This meant that local taxes went through the roof, as the western half of the county became an economic colony. We had to pay the taxes to keep up the roads, provide emergency services, deal with the imported problems. The county sectoral economy shifted from farming and extractive industry to commercial retail. Land speculation drove real estate prices higher and higher with taxes following in their wake.

You can now read the voting majority of the county council in the Yellow Pages under "Excavating and Heavy Construction."

What had been a stable, self-sufficient economy with substantial local business ownership (and a high rate of local re-investment) had turned into a suburb with no city nearby. The chain stores only left about 5% of their cash flow behind (in sales tax and minimum wage jobs.) The county average wage has been steadily declining. Taxes, local utilities (water and sewer), and rent went through the roof. We suddenly had a substantial homeless population as the low-rent housing was converted to owner residences by the rising real estate prices. Wells started going bad, particularly near the coast, where excessive pumping had drawn seawater into the water table. Sewage systems started failing in some developments, which will require large amounts of tax money to repair and replace. Road maintainence all over the county started rising due to higher traffic levels. Flooding became more and more severe as forest land was logged for raw log exports, and the urban sprawl accelerated. The small farm on which I lived was destroyed by mudslides triggered by logging road which should never have been built.

About three years ago, we started to figure out just how badly we had been had. "Everybody do what they want" had steered everybody (except the take-the-money-and-run crowd) into a rising spiral of development which raised taxes. And then more development was justified to raise the tax base, causing more demand for infrastructure, which raised taxes . . . and here we go again. The cash flow fooled many people into thinking we'd all get rich. Local candidated elected by grassroots campaigns (and very little money) tried to get things back on an even keel.

The developers fought back. They wanted to keep on using our taxes to subsidize their profits. One group, the Keystone Forum, started holding monthly invitation-only lunches. They mapped out a plan to grab the government for themselves so they could deep picking our pockets. They found an organizer and created a property-rights group for the county, the Coalition for Land Use Education (CLUE), a tax-exempt non-profit. The founding members of CLUE were the former head of city planning (who had gone through the revolving door to cash in), the head of the builders group, a realtor who specialized in manipulating land use laws, and the president of the surveyors association. CLUE's first act was to bring Chuck Cushman to town to disrupt critical planning meetings.

Cushman is a carpetbagger who makes his living tearing communities apart with hatred, fear and rancor. Almost immediately, we had elected officials getting death threats, vandalism, intimidation, fear and rancor destroying our public process. Keystone also started getting close to a local citizens groups that was involved in city issues revolving around the collapsing downtown. More rancor and intransigence screwed up the local people trying to figure out what was best.

CLUE in turn spun off two county secession movements and a referendum campaign to sabotage local planning. All of a sudden property rights was the big local issue. People stopped going to public meetings because they were getting their tires slashed, windows and headlights broken, followed home from meetings, threatening phone calls.

CLUE and Keystone ran a slate of Wise Use candidates in a stealth campaign. More money was pumped into these races than had ever been seen before in local elections. The county secession groups were running selective voter registration drives, telling people: "just sign this petition and it'll lower your taxes." Before the primary, many people were getting phone calls encouraging them to vote for the Wise Use slate. The callers claimed that they were from the local Republican party, but the Republicans hadn't made any endorsements. Large numbers of letters and faxes were circulating in support of candidates, but were never declared by the campaigns or Keystone's PAC (which spent more money on their own campaign than many of the candidates). All of this was being done in secret, nobody seemed to know what was going on. Sure enough, come election day, the stealth campaign won. You can now read the voting majority of the county council in the Yellow Pages under "Excavating and Heavy Construction."

The election was so lopsided that I took a close look at the precinct returns. It was obvious that some very unusual things had happened. In the city vote, the key race was decided by absentee votes that came from a very few precincts. These votes must have been a straight Keystone slate. A little more check-

(Continued next page)

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(Wise Use, continued)

ing around showed that the funny precincts all had nursing homes in them. I found witnesses that had seen people going around and "helping" sick and elderly people fill out their ballots.

Then I started looking into the county secession groups. Many people in the county had told me that forming a new county would be on the ballot. The petitions looked like initiative ballot petitions, which bring an issue to a vote. The petitions were all marked "Return this petition by Nov. 1, 1993." There was no secession issue on the ballot and no petitions have ever been submitted for verification. I visited the office of one of the secession groups and was horrified by what I found. It looked just like an American Opinion bookstore. There were posters on the walls and in the windows that said that the communists wanted to take your land. There were large amounts of CLUE literature, yard signs, handouts saying the most outrageous things. They had a financial feasibility study that never mentioned startup costs. They claimed that they were going to lower taxes and increase services. Then the head guy looked me right in the eye (with one of the most malicious expressions I have ever seen) and said, "We're taking over!"

I've been looking into these folks ever since and I don't like what I'm finding. Most of the people in the property rights and secession groups think they are just a local group. I've found that this was not the case. I go to their meetings and find twenty good local folks and six operators. Only the operators know what is going on. There are secret meetings that the key operatives from five counties are attending each month. Members from all of the local groups (in several counties) that I have talked to tell me that their group wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the support and direction of their local property rights alliance or CLUE. All the groups have similar or identical names. All of them are circulating identical literature that differs only in the names that are on it. As I have traced the organizing ties upwards I find the Wise Use movement. Few or none of the people in the local groups know anything at all about who is running or where they are coming from.

It is now becoming apparent that the stealth campaigns are being coordinated at a state and interstate level. The secrecy and paranoia that radiates from these organizations is unbelievable. Every group seems to have some very scary and violent

people lurking in the background. Most of the people are being manipulated in ways that they neither see nor understand. At my local level, it is the same group of monied interests that have messed up our economy and tax base that are driving this thing. As you look up the ladder, there are large corporations like Trillium, Plum Creek Timber, Bechtel, Presto. There are organizational ties to groups like the Unification Church, the World Anti-Communist League, Christian Identity, Aryan Nations and The Order. I don't think that any of the good people at the local level (and they are good people, I've known some of them for many years. They've got real problems, just like the rest of us, and these problems need solutions.) don't know how they are being used or who is really doing it.

What is emerging is a picture of an attempt to take over the city, local and state governments in the Puget Sound region. The five counties that have been targeted by the "New Counties Movement" comprise about 90% of the population and taxbase of the entire state. The secessionists are openly bragging about how their efforts dovetail into legislative campaigns. They claim 300,000 voters statewide as already being on their petitions and mailing lists. Dan Wood, a professional lobbyist for Wise Use front organizations, is running a takings initiative campaign that will swell their identified voter lists. The secessionalists are running large voter registration drives in the unincorporated areas in the western slope of the Cascades.

All of this activity fits in nicely with the "modern populism" strategy of the far right. These people have an invisible third party that can be used as a swing block to influence elections for all sorts of offices next fall. They do not have any party allegiance, though the Republicans are their natural allies. They took over the Snohomish county council last fall by running candidates inside of both parties. The most severe political damage that they have done has been forming alliances with construction and timber unions and winning primary elections that take out Democratic incumbents who don't expect a challenge from inside their own party. This has effectively neutralized the state Democratic party as an organizing base against them.

I expect to see the twenty-six right wing initiative campaigns disrupt most elective campaigns by dividing the available resources too thinly. Then control of the legislature will be seized in the general election. At this point, the Right will be able to discard the initiative campaigns and simply pass the legislation. It looks pretty grim. To the best of my knowledge, we can look forward to the stealth campaigns for control of the legislature and county governments to emerge from behind the smokescreen of the initiative campaigns too late to be stopped. It will probably take eight years to correct the results of the '94 elections, even if everybody gets the picture yesterday. This could make the last decade look like a picnic.

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Mothers Against Police Harassment
New Group in Town

An organizational meeting will be held Thrusday, May 12, 1994 at 6:30 pm for the development of a Thruston County chapter of Mothers Against Police Harassment (MAPH). Harriett Walden, chairperson of the Seattle-based MAPH, will conduct the meeting. All those interested in being a part of organizing and maintaining the local Thurston County chapter are encouaged to attend. The meeting will be held at the Olympia Community Center.

Mothers Against Police Harassment works through education, public information, and a network of concerned community members to stop police harassment and acts of violence aginst youth and adults that violate civil and human rights. Through community education aand codes of conduct for police and youth, MAPH works to assist and support those persons filing complaints with authorities. Any community members, including parents, youth, lawyers or other professional, or concerned citizens, are encouarged to attend this organizational meeting.

For more information contact Seattle MAPH (206) 329-2033 or Dave Ehle 357-4315.

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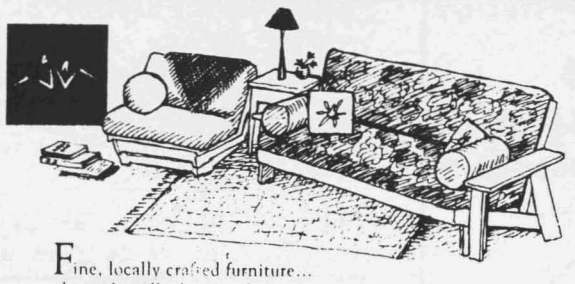
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Racism: Why is it still with us?

Dave Zink

Few problems demonstrate more graphically the vicious, inhuman character of the present social-economic system than racism. This problem has time and again exposed the hypocrisy and opportunism of politicians, both liberal and reactionary. We've had decades of lip service, and some legislative action to extend and protect minority rights. In his book *Land of Idols*, Michael Parenti defines racism as "the belief and practice of treating some ethnically distinct groups as biologically, socially, and morally inferior. Along with condemning it as an evil, we must try to comprehend what causes it." At best, there's been only minor impact on some of the more overt effects of racism.

Racial tensions and intolerance are on the increase. Hate crimes are at an all-time high. Why? Surely there's been a great deal of effort to minimize and alleviate the effects of racism since the civil rights movement burst onto the scene in earnest in the 1950's. So why is virulent racism still with us? The main reason is that **nothing** has yet been done to eliminate the **cause**: the irrational, strife-ridden, divisive capitalist system under which we live.

So-called "Liberals" put forth the warm and cozy - and wrong - theory that prejudice can be overcome through education and scientific refutation of the racist's lies. This idea is based upon the premise that race prejudice can be overcome by reforming people's minds - without **touching** the very real social and economic conditions that breed and feed prejudice. Racist incidents and hate crimes are the result of something that has deep roots in capitalism. Once you understand the nature of capitalism, and the economic and material forces at work in this society, you can finally begin to see things more clearly.

The capitalists and their friends realize that economic factors play a very significant part in determining racial attitudes. *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen warned recently that "A generation of bigots is coming of age" and that recent data "strongly suggests that progress on racial attitudes is being reversed - with contributions from both races. Worse, this is happening at a time when the economic pie is shrinking and competition for jobs increasing. If the economic trend continues, racial intolerance is likely to grow."

Cohen went on to note that programs resulting from the civil rights struggle which may have helped encourage racial tolerance "were instituted at a time of [relatively] sustained economic growth, a boom time especially for college graduates, when jobs were plentiful. That's no longer the case." Today, average wages are falling and unemployment is growing as a result of ruling-class policies that put short-term profits ahead of all other considerations. Crime and the breakdown of the family and society are just a few of the lovely results.

Some of the most intense opposition to equal opportunity for people of color has come from white workers whose economic status is closest to black workers. To poor whites, any improvement in the status of black workers can be seen as a threat in the competition for the same limited jobs, housing, and shrinking social services and educational opportunities. These fears are exacerbated in economic crises, when insecurity grows. Racism intensifies and spreads rapidly under the prods of sharpened competition, cutbacks, and "downsizing".

The main reason is that nothing has yet been done to eliminate the cause: the irrational, strife-ridden, divisive capitalist system under which we live.

Life in decaying urban centers is mean and nasty. Anger and frustration are reasonable human responses to a bad situation. Yet when ghetto residents express these feelings, the corporate-owned mass media "spin doctors" distort the situation, cover up the real causes, and blame the victims for the explosion. Racist groups seize upon these incidents and come to the aid of the ruling class by further distracting public attention away from the real causes. White workers, depending on the mainstream media for their information, get only the distortions, not the truth. As a result, ignorance and racist group membership are on the rise.

Black, brown, and white workers share many problems, concerns, and fears - there's a lot of Common Ground. When one sector of the working class is forced to accept low pay and poor conditions, it acts as a drag, holding back every worker's pay. And, when workers of color and women make social and economic gains, we <u>all</u> benefit from the rising wage scales and improved conditions. As Parenti says, "Far from being hurt or neglected by progressive officeholders who are also Black or Latino or Asian or whatever ethnicity, White workers generally fare better with them than with conservatives." But too many white workers just don't see this and are buying into racist lies and scapegoat politics. They are aligning themselves with their real enemies. It is in the interests of the ruling elite to keep working people divided and disorganized.

One thing is certain. The destructive, competitive spirit of capitalism permeates every aspect of society. As long as we allow capitalism to thrive, racism will just get worse, and could lead to Fascism. Right-wing politicians are always looking for issues that blur class interests and incite working people against each other. If we workers want to end this self-defeating, deadly competition -if we're ever going to stop sabotaging our efforts and shooting each other - we must wake up to a few facts. Racial antagonism is no accident: it's a tactic used against us by the ruling class - part of their "divide and conquer" strategy. Working-class unity is a prospect that scares the pants off the ruling class, and they will do anything to prevent it.

Malcolm X said "Capitalism used to be like an eagle, but now its more like a vulture...You can't have capitalism without racism." And when you find people who "don't have this racism in their outlook, usually they're socialists or their political philosophy is socialism". A month later, Malcolm X was assassinated. And when Martin Luther King stated that "The evils of capitalism are as real as the evils of militarism and racism," he, too, was shot soon after. When these two great civil rights leaders with large followings started to publically connect racism and capitalism, their days were numbered. Coincidence?

The corporate elite is numerically tiny, but <u>very</u> class-conscious and prepared to protect its power and privilege. <u>We</u> must become more conscious of our political and economic potentials, and learn how to achieve a decent society and a livable world.

Capitalism not only breeds racist distrust, it also feeds upon it. Its time we got rid of it. We can build a better way of life. At this point in history, for our very survival, we <u>must</u>.

I invite you to join with those working for social justice. Check out the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition! ✷

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HOMELESS NEWS AND VIEWS

Volume 1, Number 6 | May 1994

WHAT IS NEXT? THE SITUATION AT THE HOLLY MOTEL

by Jennifer Minich

On April 12th, the four week Holly Motel rental vouchers granted by the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (DCTED) to local homeless people ran out. Over a month since the First Baptist Church's men's shelter and the women's and families' overflow shelter closed, 50-60 people, as indicated by the Sylvester Park encampment totals, are again without basic shelter.

WHAT WAS UP AT THE HOLLY?

The Holly Motel was open to families, couples, and single men and women from March 16th to April 12th. After two weeks at the Holly motel, five people had secured employment, and two additional had kept employment maintained during the March 1-16th encampment in Sylvester Park. Many other Holly residents were actively seeking both employment and housing. By the end of March, ten people were employed.

Some businesses and individuals in the community have telephoned Bread and Roses offering employment. Mary Walker obtained a job at The Iron Skillet after the owner called Bread and Roses asking for a line cook. Mary loves the job and has nothing but wonderful things to say about this opportunity.

After two weeks at the Holly Motel, the voucher waiting list, managed and managed by former First Baptist Church shelter coordinator Tim Leipold and Outreach Volunteer Pawnee Brown, was12-15 people long. During the entire month, there were no empty beds. The state paid $15.00 for one day's use of each room. The management of the Holly motel confirmed that, "The rooms would normally costs $26.00-$50.00." In all, fifteen rooms had been rented, temporarily housing 34 homeless people.

ISSUES OF CONFLICT DURING THE HOLLY MOTEL STAY

One of the major issues at the Holly Motel has been the relationship between management, guests, and staff. During the first week of the voucher system's implementation, six people were asked to leave for violating regulations at the Holly Motel. The bulk of these violations had to do with noise levels. While the ejection of these six was reported in *The Olympian*, the paper failed to report that two of the six were reinstated the following day. The remaining four people who had caused problems were asked not to come back. After this incident, no other people using DCTED vouchers were required to leave the Holly.

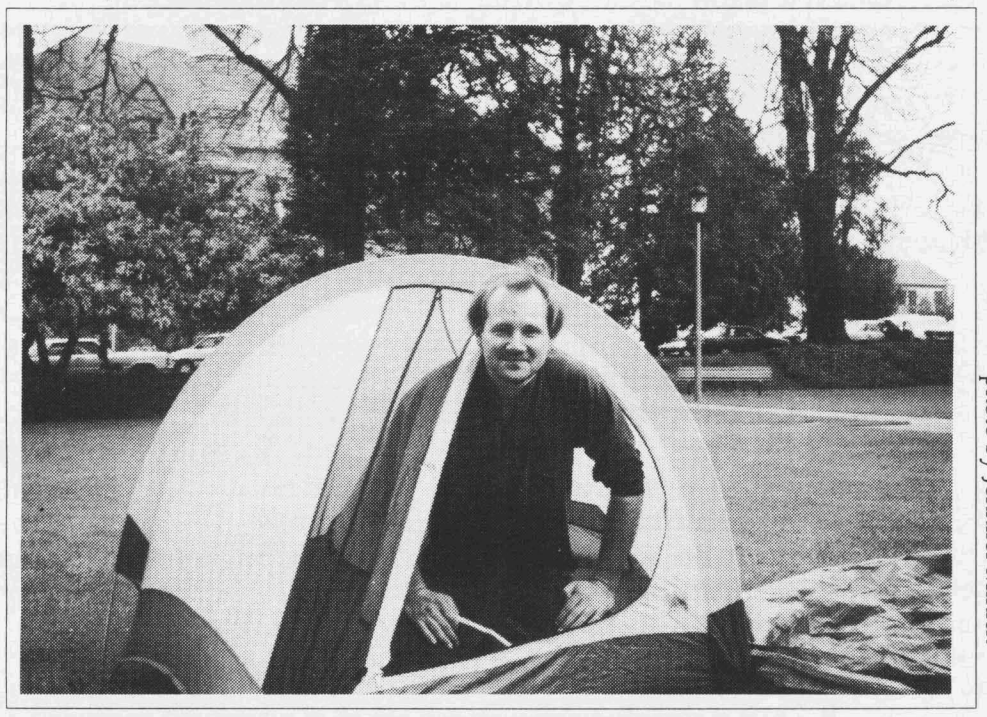


photo by Jennifer Minich

Clyde Davis, a homeless man who stayed at the Holly Motel, cleans his tent at Sylvester Park, April 9th. He has since then found a residence.

Another issue of controversy has been conflicts between management and the homeless. The manager, Dean Kwak, said that the Holly lost money on the voucher system. Apparently some damage occurred that was beyond normal wear. The manager had also said, "No good has come out of the stay. I received hundreds of calls and 99.9% were negative. I was hoping that people would find jobs or get helped, but I didn't see anyone going out to find jobs." By the end of the month, however, he and the assistant manager agreed that "the situation with the guests [had] become better." "It's calmed down a lot since the beginning," said the assistant manager.

The homeless guests complained that the management was unsympathetic. One homeless woman said that they would come and knock on the door at unreasonable times of the morning like 4:30 AM. Greg Hohnholt, a reporter for *Homeless News and Views* who stayed at the Holly the night before it closed, said that he was treated "like a homeless person" when he went to exchange his voucher for a room key. "The room clerk seemed very wary of me, and asked me if I was going to 'do anything crazy'," he said. Others complained of stereotypes and prejudice; however, others acknowledged that at times they weren't policing themselves well enough.

Outreach Staff Tim Leipold and Pawnee Brown, hired by DCTED to oversee their voucher system, were placed in the middle by the needs and expectations of both management and guests. They were asked to keep the peace as well as provide services. Not only did their jobs consist of passing out donated bus tickets and making sure that the rooms were filled, they also helped by intermediating between the concerns of the management and the people perceived by the Holly management as being troublesome. Both management and the homeless felt satisfied with the work of the outreach staff.

WHERE TO NOW?

One homeless woman defined shelter as "a place to leave belongings, shower, rest, eat, and restore self in a clean and safe environment." A survey made by and for the homeless community was completed indicating the needs of the homeless. Most important was a long term interim shelter with private or semi-private rooms, showers, phones, and a stay of 90 days. The same homeless woman said,"Some rules are necessary. We do, however, want a say in the rules. Some jobs require hours in which some shelters like the Salvation Army simply can't accommodate in their rules."

According to Pawnee Brown, another concern is that adolescent or adult men and women increasingly feel that they have to exchange sex for shelter. "If you have more people on the streets, you're going to have more of this kind of thing happening," said Brown.

SCHEMe's "Call the Governor" campaign, which urged the public to request a one month extension of the vouchers while the Holly residents continued to save money for permanent housing, was ended after the state refused to grant the extension.

The Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in West Olympia went to

(Continued last page of HN & V*)*

TENT CLEAN-UP IN SYLVESTER PARK

by Jennifer Minich

A small number of homeless from the Holly Motel as well as homeless advocates participated in a tent cleanup in Sylvester Park on Saturday, April 9th. They gathered at 2:00pm to clean tents used during the Sylvester Park encampment, and to send the message to the community that people would again be in need of basic shelter after the 12th.

Shortly after the second tent was put up, the Washington State Patrol showed up. There were three patrolmen in civilian clothing, two others in uniform, and at least six patrol cars parked in the surrounding area. They asked everyone to leave because the tent cleaners had no permit to protest, and said that setting up tents would be considered camping which is against the law in Sylvester Park. The homeless and homeless advocates took down the tents and remained for approximately an hour.

A decision was made against reestablishing another tent city after the Staff Director from the Office of the Governor stated in a letter to Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement (SCHEMe) and residents at the Holly Motel that, "Allowing another tent city at Sylvester park will overshadow your success and alienate the community." SCHEMe is presently searching for alternative housing for the homeless, but as the weather gets warmer, the public perception of the extent of homelessness is once again, according to many SCHEMe members, beginning to shrink as the temperature goes up.

OF C.A.T.S. AND 'TRANSIENTS': A DIALOGUE ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY

By Greg Hohnholt, former Anonymous Citizen

On April 7th, the group formally known as C.A.S.T., the Citizens Afraid to Speak the Truth, officially garnered a new name; C.A.T.S., or the Citizens Agreeing To Speak. At around 7:00 PM, CATS held a public meeting at the old Hewlitt Packard building on the corner of Fourth and Cherry. It was attended by homeless individuals, assorted homeless advocates, Mayor Bob Jacobs, and a number of business owners who are, presumably, CATS members as well. Representatives from Bread & Roses, the Olympia Police Department (OPD), SCHEMe, the Salvation Army, and H.E.L.P. also attended.

The perspective that CATS offered for their inaugural address was a plea for public safety. They were not there to talk about homelessness, they said, they were there to talk about the "transients," the homeless individuals who, for lack of willingness to change their aimless, antisocial lifestyle, were making downtown Olympia unsafe. Despite this public safety/anti-transient perspective being side-tracked several times by anger, fear, intolerance, finger-pointing, and nonlistening behaviors on both sides, we can safely say that the CATS meeting was divided into two parts: a half hour expository address by Salvation Army Board of Directors' Dr. Donald Grimes, and a two hour informal, open-ended seminar on a wide range of homeless issues.

The bulk of Dr. Grimes' address was composed of assertions equating nonproductivity (i.e. not having a paying job and supporting the I.R.S.) with being a criminal. He reminisced about years past, before Olympia had been "taken over by drug users and criminals," when he "was able to walk around downtown without walking in excrement." CATS members, he said, were concerned about "mak[ing] our town a safer environment," and as taxpayers, they were willing to "help people that *want* to get help...those willing to live by the rules." He also stated that, in CATS' view, the stance of the OPD was "not strong enough;" the implication being that as a result of increasing numbers of 'transients' being allowed to move freely throughout Olympia, downtown business owners were being unjustly deprived of their right to make money and maintain their standard of living.

I find it ironic to observe how strongly CATS' members tend to adhere to the mistaken belief that, as long as they "play by the rules," the world owes them a *de facto* quantity of economic security. Despite the smokescreen agenda of "public safety," the deeper meaning inherent in this opening address is that CATS' members believe that owning a business instantly qualifies the business owner to a similar brand of "special rights" that they accuse the homeless of demanding from taxpayers. In other words, by virtue of a business owner's independence, their courage to "be their own boss" and their willingness to sacrifice themselves to the extra hours of stress and toil that this personal life-choice invariably entails, the *petit bourgeois* is somehow automatically imbued with the moral integrity to cast judgements regarding which homeless people are worthy of help and which should be locked up.

Whence does this fallacious thinking evolve? Generally speaking, the CATS perspective on human behavior is *quantitative* . The equation is simple: the more effort, risk, capital, or sweat expended toward some realizable goal, the bigger the resulting quarterly payoff should be. If the payoff doesn't come, someone or something (other than the business owner's unrealistic expectations, presumably) is obstructing the cash flow. In CATS' view, it's "transients" that are the bogey. On other days, it could well be government/county/city regulations, lack of parking, Bread & Roses, or whatever one or two anxious customers happen to tell the business owner on a bad day.

Conversely, then, the *qualitative* view of human behavior, concerned with unmeasurable, non-material assets, is reckoned with in business only after the quantitative is judged to be robust. The qualitative view is systemic and farsighted; it looks toward how one's individual energies are affecting the physical and emotional prosperity of the entire community over several generations.

This "profits first, people second" attitude is a truly discouraging set of priorities for anyone, especially business people, to foster. How can your life and work have any depth if you are actively discouraged tc reflect on all the humanitarian value your actions will have on future generations? Judging from the Malthusian obsession that Dr. Grimes has with universal productivity, I truly doubt whether he derives anything but grief from his association with the Salvation Army. Do any of these business owners, with all their concern for "public safety," ever examine how their business efforts are impacting and affecting the lives of the community members they serve beyond what their account ledgers tell them?

Perhaps I'm being toc "quantitative" with my criticisms, however. From a qualitative standpoint, the CATS meeting was significant. I have never seen such a broad cross section of our community gathered together under one roof talk about homeless issues. Despite the fact that most of participants did little but vent a lot of long suppressed anger, this meeting represented a faltering, yet important first step in getting a real dialogue about homelessness up and running. I hope it will continue, and I urge CATS members tc respond to this editorial. ✷

DISPELLING THE MYTHS OF HOMELESSNESS

My name is Chandler Poling. I have been working and living with homeless persons since November 1992. I've worked with homeless here in Olympia and other parts of the country. I feel that I can talk from experience on this issue. There are many myths and misconceptions about people who don't have homes.

Myth-The homeless choose to be that way.

Fact-According to the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV), a group that works with homeless in Washington D.C., 94% of the homeless did not choose to be homeless.

Myth-The homeless don't want to work.

Fact- According to SCHEMe, "Out of the original 34 homeless people who moved into the Holly Motel [from the Sylvester Park Tent City] 10 have gone back to work, 3 are in school, and another 8 have found other sources of income." Many others are daily looking for employment. People on the street have difficulty finding work because of little or no access to clean clothes, showers, alarm clock, child care, phones, an address, things the housed community takes for granted.

Myth- Homeless are criminals.

Fact- According to CCNV, the homeless are more often victims of crime than perpetrators of crime. The homeless are also more subject to police harassment.

Some people feel "getting tough" or "cleaning up the streets" will solve the homeless problem. However, these attitudes only perpetuate the problem. The issue is complex and there are no easy answers. Although I believe a new shelter is needed in Thurston County, it is not a solution, only a step in the right direction. Programs can only do so much. The roots of poverty and homelessness are deeply ingrained in our economic system which places profits before people. Until attitudes of greed, fear and indifference are replaced with sharing, respect and compassion for our brothers and sisters, nothing will change.

Chandler Poling, a homeless advocate, read this statement aloud at a C.A.T.S. (Citizens Agreed To Speak) formerly C.A.S.T. (Citizens Afraid to Speak the Truth) meeting on Thursday, April 7th. He read this to try to bring about more understanding for the homeless in the business community. Chandler has recently moved back to The San Antonio Catholic Worker House in Texas where he will continue to live and work with homeless citizens. ✷

Facts On Hor

• The number of people seeking emer is on the rise. In 1988-89 **1,265** people w were turned away.

• A large amount of poor people in W federal poverty level for a family of th working for minimum wage ($4.25/hou earn $9,000 a year.

• Bread and Roses, the only emerger (according to the 1989-90 statistics), is **everyday.**

• **180,000 children** in Washington Sta

• One out of six children is under age

• One out of five children is under ag

• WIC (The supplemental Nutrition Children) serves only **43% of the people** to lack of funding. Last year **82,332 elig**

• **One half** of the senior citizens surve on Hunger did not always have enough

• An estimated **3 million** Americans

• Families with children represent t homeless population.

• A recent Congressional study pred people will face the prospect of homele years.

• On an average night, about **one-ha** been homeless for less than three month homeless for more that three years.

• In 1989, **sixteen million** househo income for rent. **Eight million families** for rent.

These facts are taken from 1993 The National Studen and the Washington Public Interest Research Group.

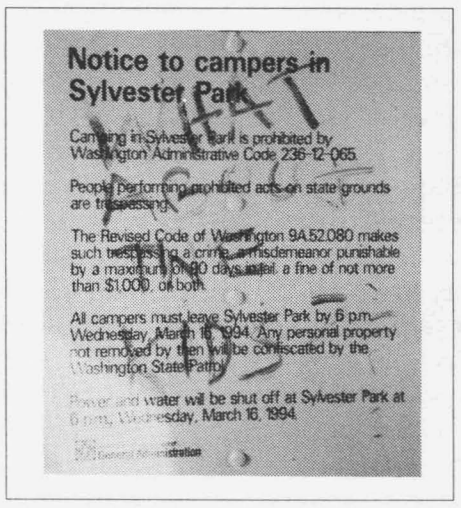
MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLYMPIA'S YOUTH

Emily Walton and Tristan Fields

Have you ever spoken to a homeless youth on the streets? Do you realize the prejudice and condescension they experience every day? Have you ever tried to understand their needs? The Olympia Center is trying to address some of these needs and break down the walls that add to this prejudice and condescension.

Many of the youth currently seen on the street today are classified as high-risk. This means that they are between the ages of 13 and 19, are at risk from street gang influences, getting into trouble with the law, or even facing death. Their input is often overlooked or forgotten by teachers, parents and decision-makers. In order to correct these problems before more materialize, the community must listen to the concerns of the youth. In order to ensure a better future, we must understand and provide for the needs of the youth.

One of the volunteers at the Olympia Center, Kym Cocchiarella, has established a close working relationship with many of the youth in the past year. She feels that in order to help the youth, the community must replace what their families are unable to give, "even though the kids are willing to go home and can be taken in, they are not getting the love, respect, and understanding [that they need]," she stated in an interview. This includes being trusted and not judged by the local businesses, police force and the general community. "Youth need skilled adult role-models that they can trust, a safe atmosphere, and easily accessible educational services," says Community Youth Services Outreach Worker, John Thompson. Youth also suffer from a lack of variety in jobs available for them. Although some internships are currently available, a shortage of funding makes them limited. If a good relationship is established between the youth and the community it is more likely that programs to assist these youth will be implemented successfully.


Notice to campers in Sylvester Park

Camping in Sylvester Park is prohibited by Washington Administrative Code 236-12-065.

People performing prohibited acts on state grounds are trespassing.

The Revised Code of Washington 9A.52.080 makes such trespassing a crime, a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of 90 days jail, a fine of not more than $1,000, or both.

All campers must leave Sylvester Park by 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, 1994. Any personal property not removed by then will be confiscated by the Washington State Patrol.

Power and water will be shut off at Sylvester Park at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 16, 1994.

This notice informed Sylvester Park campers that they must evacuate by March 16, 1994. An anonymous citizen added: "What about the kids?"

The youth ideally envision programs which will help them deal with life on a daily basis. A place to "hang-out" is their major concern. The Olympia Center is trying to provide for this concern. It is currently open until 5 p.m. every weekday and friday nights until midnight for events sponsored by Stop The Violence, a program designed to increase awareness, provide safe activities, and lead youth in a positive direction. The Olympia Center receives $50.00/night to run these activities. Approximately 60 people come to play basketball, volleyball, use the game room, play cards, shoot pool, watch movies, eat a warm meal and do other creative activities provided by the community. These activities are run by volunteers; they include such things as fly fish tying, making jewelry and making pottery throughout the week. These activities provide the youth of Olympia School District with a safe, fun, educational way to participate in a social environment. Lacey and Tumwater also provide similar programs on Friday and Saturday nights for the youth in their districts. These programs are only provided for the youth living in these districts due to outside influence from gangs and youth from other districts.

After speaking with the youth and attending one of the friday night activities, it is clear that they respond positively. They feel relaxed in the Olympia Center environment while doing the things that they enjoy. The youth also interact well with the volunteers. This can be attributed to the mutual respect between the volunteers and the youth.

All of these programs were initiated by TOGETHER!, a county wide organization originally intended to address drug and alcohol prevention in community youth. $33,000 was obtained by a grant from the Department of Community Development and split evenly between the cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater. Olympia, with its $11,000, started the program at the Olympia Community Center which is now run by Stop the Violence!, a subsidiary of TOGETHER.

All of these local organizations need volunteers. If you enjoy working with young people, this is a great way to get involved and work towards creating a safer community.

Volunteer Contacts:
Olympia School Dist—Ron Schultz, Stop The Violence! 357-3501
North Thurston School District—Linda Koshel, Lacey Parks and Recreation 866-4571
Thurston County Residents—Lisa Connor, TOGETHER! 493-2230

Youth In Conflict
The King Solomon Controversy

Emily Walton and Tristan Fields

After the closing of Mario's, a pool hall/smoke shop, this past summer the local youth were forced to find other places downtown to meet. One of the places that has received a significant amount of attention is the parking lot and sidewalk in front of the restaurant King Solomon's Reef. After asking them to leave on a few occasions, tension began to build between the youth and the manager, Marci Solomon. The tension peaked when Marci put up a sign hoping to create a solution to the problem. This sign stated:

Children on the streets:
Anyone seen sitting, loitering, or panhandling in front of this restaurant will be barred from this building FOREVER! This means from the alley to the phone booth. Anyone who refuses to obey these simple rules should be aware that wee will call the police and you will be escorted away. If you choose to return you will be arrested for trespassing. This is a business--not a hangout! We will not tolerate your begging. You are not welcome in nor around King Solomon's Reef. Go to the park, go to the community center. Go anywhere JUST GET AWAY FROM THIS BUSINESS!

These next statements appeared in smaller signs surrounding the larger one:

Go home and do something nice for your parents.

Offer to baby-sit for free.

Just do something! Get a life!

Enroll in a class offered by the Parks Department or the City of Olympia

Write your aunt, uncle, or grandparents.

Donate some time to a senior center.

Read someone a story.

Many everyday social activities rotate around the downtown. From this aspect youth find it is unfair to ask them to relocate or leave when they are simply seeking a safe comfortable atmosphere to meet friends. There has been a long pattern of unacceptance from store owners and business people which has led to hard feelings among the youth, some of whom are homeless. When a sign appeared in the window of King Solomon's Reef, they once again felt the condescension and intolerance. They felt that they were treated unfairly and discriminated against because of their age and social position. In response, they attempted to take down the signs and convey their concerns to Marci. After verbal exchanges, Marci called the police who issued warnings to the youth.

From the restaurant's perspective, having the youth in front of the building detracts from business. Customers complained that they were reluctant to enter the building because of the panhandling and the appearance of the crowd in front of the establishment. From her perspective, the sign merely stated her property rights as a business person downtown. Marci expressed surprise at the reactions she received. After she realized the miscommunication that had happened, Marci made greater efforts to understand the youth perspective. These efforts included personal exchanges both outside and inside the restaurant. She stated that she "definitely [doesn't] hate the kids," and that she appreciates the business that youth bring. She would, however, like to see more designated areas established away from the mainstream business part of downtown where the youth could hang out in safety.

Prospects for the two generations resolving conflicts in the future is excellent if communication is established and maintained. ✷

Homelessness

ing emergency shelter in Thurston county people were turned away. In 1989-90 **1,652**

ple in Washington State **do have jobs.** The ily of three is $9,206 annually. A person 4.25/hour) 40 hours a week still does not

emergency shelter of its kind in Olympia stics), is forced to turn away **2-3 families**

ngton State live in poverty:
nder age 18.
under age **five.**
utrition Program for Women, Infants and **e people who are eligible** in our state due **,332 eligible clients were not served.**

ns surveyed by The Governor's Task Force enough money to buy the food they need. mericans are homeless.
present the **fastest growing** sector of the

dy predicts that nearly another **19 million** f homelessness in America in the next 15

t **one-half** of the homeless population had e months, and about **one-quarter** had been ears.
households paid more than 35% of their **amilies** pay more than 60% of their income

onal Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness rch Group.

28 DAYS AT THE SALLY: ONE MAN SPEAKS

By Anonymous

Editor's Note:*The following interview with a homeless single man (anonymously referred to as 'L.L.') was conducted by a woman who has, in the past, donated money to the Salvation Army. Because of the negative testimonies of her homeless friends regarding the Salvation Army, she now feels ambivalent about having made these donations. Like 'L.L.', she has requested to remain anonymous as well.*

This interview was submitted for last month's issue of Homeless News and Views, *but because of all the anonymity surrounding it, I decided to postpone publication until I could give the Salvation Army an opportunity to respond to L.L.'s allegations. Initially, the staff person I contacted was open to responding, but he felt that since L.L. was only one individual, the Salvation Army could only respond to specific allegations relating directly to his particular case. Mike Allen, Executive Director of Community Services, called me on one occasion regarding this article, but neglected to respond to my return calls. Therefore, I can only assume that the Salvation Army does not wish to submit a rebuttal unless L.L. reveals his identity so that the contents of his file can be made public.*

Since one of the primary purpose of this publication is to give "homeless individuals a free, uncensored medium to tell their stories, voice their concerns, and exchange information," I have decided to print this interview by itself. In the interest of fairness, however, this publication remains open to printing other views on 'Sally's'.

Anonymous: "L.L." is now a tent–in–the–woods person who previously stayed for one month at the Salvation Army. He has been forced by the police to move his tent several times in the past few months. I asked him about his experiences with the Salvation Army.

L.L. : When I first came to town, I stayed at the Salvation Army for 28 days. I was not impressed at all with the conditions there. The breakfast part was always served with what seemed like week–old dry bread. And most of the time, all we had to eat for breakfast was oatmeal and this dry toast. At times, a staff member would stand in the dining area and towards the end of the meal he would begin to shout obscenities at us, saying we only had a few minutes left to eat. This was true at lunch and dinner as well. They only gave you one half hour to eat. (At Bread and Roses we often have more than one hour to eat.)

I have been asked many times if I would like to go back there because of my current living conditions, but I am refusing to do so because I feel that the Salvation Army is a system that will inevitably deter people from going there, and is in fact reaping funds from the working class people of Olympia in order to further benefit themselves.

In the Kitchen, [the Salvation Army] gets good food, but [staff persons] take the best part home. (Word of mouth from someone who helped out in the kitchen.) They took the best food home to their own houses. They're screwing up the people of Olympia who care."

Anonymous: What was your daily schedule like around the time you were staying at the Salvation Army?

L.L. :

6:00 AM: They get you up. We sleep on rows of bunk beds in one room. 40 to 50 men. One and one half feet between the beds. I know for a fact the people have had their stuff stolen up there while they are gone or sleeping. You keep everything you own on the floor by your bunk.

6:30 to 7:00 AM (Breakfast): You have to exit the building after breakfast. You can't hang there under the overhangs. The only way you can hang around there is if you're well enough to be seeking daytime employment. The reception area they have there is rather small. Sometimes the men have to wait outside for people to come by and hire them.

7:00 to 11:00 AM: Bread and Roses wasn't open until 11:00 AM back then. I went down to Percival Landing a lot, or walked around downtown trying to stay warm and out of the weather.

11:00 AM: People would all gather around the door of Bread and Roses anywhere from an hour to one–half hour before it opened. I'm not going to say anything bad about Bread and Roses. Many men and some women take showers and do their laundry at the two free showers and two free washers and dryers there. Now Bread and Roses opens at 7:00 because the business people were complaining that so many people were gathering at the front door.

12:30 PM : Lunch at Bread and Roses. Lunch at the Salvation Army is at 12:00, but most people eat at Bread and Roses just because of the rude treatment at the Salvation Army.

Afternoons: Hang out at Bread and Roses mostly. Playing cards, talking. That's about it. And wondering what's going to become of my life.

6:00 PM : Dinnertime at Bread and Roses. (5:30 at the Salvation Army.)

7:00 PM : Bread and Roses closes. Without money there is no place to go. Salvation Army opens at 9:00 PM. Sometimes I'd go down to the Community Center. Someplace dry.

9:00 PM : Sometimes a real long line of men were waiting to get in the Sally. You had to go in one at a time while the rest of us waited outside. Then you'd walk up to this little desk and give a guy your ID and he would keep that overnight. And then you would be issued your bedding for the night and told that you only had one hour to take a shower. Four showers for 30 guys. At 10:00 p.m. the lights were turned out. A lot of times guys would try to sneak a shower in the morning because of not having enough time the night before. Staff would go in there and tell them, "Get out of there, go downstairs and eat!""

Anonymous: When the First Baptist Church opened a temporary shelter, you moved from the Salvation Army to the church. What did you think of the situation there?"

L.L.: On the scale between one to ten, I'd say it was 100% better.

Anonymous: Why is that?

L.L.: Because the rules were easier to live with for one thing. The staff was much more kind, caring and considerate. And the parishioners opened their hearts and souls to us and helped me to realize that, for once, there was some hope.

[Unfortunately, though,] the church was crowded. There were even men sleeping in the stairwells. That's when I decided that there needed to be an alternative place to stay. So with the help of a very good friend, I was able to set up a camp in the woods and closer to nature. This has helped me a tremendous amount."

Anonymous: Do you still consider yourself homeless?

L.L. : Not in the sense that I don't have a place to go at night that is warm and private and uncrowded. But I am still under the control of the system that may kick me out at any time. ✷

(Holly, cont.)

the Holly to look into providing possible solutions. Both members of the church, Bob Thompson from DCTED and Cathy Anderson, an administrator of the church, met on the last day to discuss the role of the church in the solution. "We have a commitment to the long term, which we can respond on an individual basis," said Thompson. They have a social action committee which has agreed to come up with some funds. Through providing reference, guarantee or cosigner for rent, an address and phone for jobs, as well as a place to build relationships, Gloria Dei hopes to instill self-reliance among those homeless people who have demonstrated a willingness to move forward.

Some homeless individuals have mentioned that they are more hopeful since the members of Gloria Dei have expressed an interest in providing support. Other homeless individuals have expressed anger at being put back on the street. SCHEMe is currently working on temporary and long term housing solutions in conjuction with the Low Income Housing Institute of Seattle. If you would like to get involved in these efforts, SCHEMe meets every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM at Bread & Roses, 114 N. Cherry St.

Statement of Purpose

WiP's aim in publishing *Homeless News and Views* is threefold: (1) First and foremost, we wish to make some contribution to dispelling the narrow misconceptions about who the homeless are and how these *individuals* became homeless. We believe that this can best be accomplished by (2) granting homeless individuals a free, uncensored medium with which to tell their stories, voice their concerns, and exchange information. By doing so, (3) the homeless will hopefully become more in our community's imagination than a faceless mass of people without homes—perhaps we who *have* homes will begin to understand the importance of considering what the homeless have to offer the future of our community rather than by what they lack in the immediate present.

Homeless News and Views is seeking articles, poetry, photography, or artwork concerning homelessness. Homeless contributors are given top priority, but anyone wishing to make relevant submissions are urged to do so. All interested parties may contact the editor, Greg Hohnholt, at 943-5315. If you wish to be interviewed, require access to a word processor, or would like some assistance with getting your thoughts into print, please call to make arrangements to meet with Greg. Thank you!

ON-GOING IN *HOMELESS NEWS AND VIEWS*

As a part of our Spring quarter project in "Environment, Land and People" at The Evergreen State College, Emily Walton, Tristan Fields, and Jennifer Minich, will be submitting articles to the May and June issues of *Homeless News and Views*. Our goal is to educate WIP's readers and ourselves about the many current issues concerning this growing social epidemic. To complete this project, we will be collecting homeless biographies and stories, and reporting on legislative issues, existing homeless programs' or organizations' information, and a selection of relevent current events.

We wish to thank*Works in Progress* for allowing us a voice, and we are excited about having the opportunity to provide a voice for those traditionally without. For any additional information or imput into *Homeless News and Views*, please feel free to contact us at 866-6000 ext. 5017, or Greg Hohnholt at 943-5315.

HN & V Co-editors: Greg Hohnholt, Jennifer Minich, Emily Walton, and Tristan Fields

UFWWS Closer to Union Contract Than Ever

Todd Crosby

The boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle (CSM) wines and other UST (formerly U.S. Tobacco) owned wines continues to escalate. The United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS) continues to broaden their movement in communities around the state and nationally. Meanwhile the management of Chateau Ste Michelle winery has continued to find new ways to fight farmworkers struggle to gain the right to a union election. Recently the UFWWS and CSM have taken new actions regarding the boycott.

On March 25th, Chateau Ste Michelle bussed half of the farmworkers who pick and prune their grape vines in central Washington to the winery in Woodinville for a tour and a luncheon. The farm workers got more than that, however. They were subjected to a briefing by CEO Allen Shoup regarding the winery's increased profits and market shares.

This "Total Quality" management style, common to big companies seeking to bust unions anf increase profits, backfired however. Many of the farmworkers responded by handing Shoup authorization cards for the UFWWS. This move revealed two things. First, TQM techniques have nothing to do with empowerment for workers. Second, Chateau Ste Michelle does not understand it's own arrogance or the farmworkers they employ. It seems illogical to invite farmworkers who are trying to gain a better standard of living and basic human rights to your palatial chateau just to boast about how much *more* profits are being hoarded at the expense of their labor. It is this arrogance and paternalistic behavior that has farmworkers at odds with CSM management.

In a conversation with CSM management during the luncheon a farmworker claimed that the workers feel the winery does not treat them with respect. The Director of Vineyard Operations responded, "How can you say that? Look at the service we gave you up there. We waited on you hand and foot. You tell me that you could afford to eat like that everyday. They [the union] are animals, maniacs, crazy. We cannot negotiate with them." The farm worker responded, "All I can say is that the union is getting stronger and stronger every day. And if you do not do something about it, we might end up outside holding a sign."

At the gates of CSM uninvited UFWWS members, officials, and supporters were holding signs. Outside, the winery did not feign the cordiality they were performing inside. Educational Director and boycott coordinator for the UFWWS, Kurt Peterson, was singled out by the winery, lured away from the

rest of the picketers by King County police, slammed onto a police car, and arrested.

An off-duty King County police officer, employed by Chateau Ste Michelle as a security guard, convinced on-duty King County police officers to arrest Peterson on charges that Peterson "brushed" him with his car. None of the picketers/possible witnesses were questioned, nor was the video recordings of the day's events reviewed as possible proof of a crime.

In fact, there was no crime committed. No official charges have been pressed, only an *investigation* of third degree assault. It was purely a case of intimidation on the part of Chateau Ste Michelle and the King County police.

The events of March 25th add to the list of failed public relations schemes and intimidation tactics by Chateau Ste Michelle. Their failure resulted in the cancellation of the luncheon for the other half of the farmworkers scheduled for April 15. Chateau Ste Michelle is regrouping by employing a notorious union-buster in CA in conjunction with a public relations firm notorious for its racist tactics. The point is that CSM cannot simultaneously pretend to understand farmworkers needs and try to bust their union at the same time. The workers know this. The winery does not, yet.

Since the events on March 25, the UFWWS have continued to build momentum. On April 10, the membership voted in near unanimity (only one no vote) to join Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) and affiliate with the AFL-CIO. The UFWA came to the United Farmworkers of Washington State because, "we are the closest farmworker union in the country to winning a contract," said Tomas Villanueva, board member of UFWWS. Leaders of the UFWA have already made the boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle a priority among their own organization.

The UFWWS have established themselves as leaders in the labor movement...they have repeatedly shown a commitment to working people by withstanding intimidation, sweetheart contract offers, watered down labor law, and the lure of company luncheons.

Affiliation with the AFL-CIO has brought immediate support to the boycott. At a recent picket in front at CSM union members joined from AFSCME, the Sheetmetal Workers, HERE, SEIU, UFCW, and many other unions. Many of them also gave speeches in support of the union and boycott, and pledges of financial backing.

The momentum for the boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle is swelling. The boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle, like most other boycott's, cannot continue its movement towards a decent standard of living and basic human rights for farmworkers without help outside of its membership.

Why is it important to not only honor the boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle and other UST owned wines, but join the boycott activity? Because the United Farm Workers are engaged in a fight for the same rights that individuals and organizations in our community are struggling with today.

First, the agriculture industry is a model of institutionalized racism. Chateau Ste Michelle and Columbia Crest wineries are no exceptions. While management and ownership of the winery, remains white and mostly male, the vineyard workers are primarily Latino. In fact, 95% of farmworkers throughout the agricultural industry are Latino/Chicano. The current conditions and systematic oppression endemic to farmworkers are symptoms of their historical powerlessness in the agriculture industry in terms of race and as a class. Furthermore, the Teamsters represent Chateau Ste Michelle's white workers inside the winery, with rights and a standard of living currently being denied to farmworkers. Becoming active in the UFWWS's boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle is taking action against racism.

Second, the United Farm Workers have always been an empowering organization for women. The UFWWS have fought against issues of unequal pay, disproportionate lay-offs, and job segregation for women. Women are the members, the organizers, and union officials. Currently Chateau Ste Michelle pays some women only half that of men and makes arbitrary lay-off that disproportionately affect women. The winery uses such sexist tactics because it undermines the power of farmworkers as a whole. Becoming active in the UFWWS's boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle is taking action against sexism.

Third, the UFWWS are fighting for all workers. They are fighting the same fight for the same rights that workers won in 1935. This is one reason for all of the enthusiasm for the boycott from other union members. The UFWWS have showed that they are not willing to accept the same regressive labor laws that have crippled organizing in other farmworker unions and, indeed, the labor movement as a whole. Without even having won a contract yet, The UFWWS have established themselves as leaders in the labor movement. As leaders they have repeatedly shown a commitment to working people by withstanding intimidation, sweetheart contract offers, watered down labor law, and the lure of company luncheons.

Take action by attending a committing at least one hour a week to picket. We will be picketing these restaurants: 11AM Sunday at Budd Bay Cafe and/or Noon Wednesday at Ruby's Restaurant until they discontinue selling UST owned wines. Also participate in The 5th Annual Farmworker Solidarity March, May 1, in Burlington, WA. Call Todd at 357-3192 for more info. ✷

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The Initiative Process in the West

Government by the People?

WIP News Service

In 1912, Washington became one of the first states to approve the initiative and referendum process. Today, Washingtonians dissatisfied with laws passed or unable to convince legislators to take desired action can petition to place measures on the general ballot, thereby allowing voters to make decisions. Initiatives concern proposed new laws; referendums place actions taken by the legislature, including laws, directly before voters.

In the 1990s, initiatives in particular are used with increasing regularity throughout the West. According to Edward Bender of the Western States Center, this represents a deliberate strategy on the part of conservatives, to "bolster the Right's strength while weakening progressive groups and blocking or reversing progressive change."

Writing in the Spring, 1994 issue of the Western State Center News, Bender points to last year's anti-tax initiatives in Washington state (601 and 602), the defeat of a recycling measure sponsored by the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) in 1990, and the current crop of anti-gay measures proposed across the country as evidence.

Bender, who has worked extensively on WSC's Money in Western Politics tracking project, says that in general conservative initiative efforts have been funded by big business and the Republican Party. Supporters of recycling in Oregon managed to raise $518,234 - only to be overwhelmed by powerful opponents in the plastics and food-packaging industries. The American Paper Institute, according to Bender, contributed $284,000 to anti-recycling efforts; Philip Morris kicked in $181,858, and even Safeway Stores put up $25,000, the twenty-second largest donation in a list of corporate sponsors which included Dow Chemical, Amoco, Dupont, Exxon, Mobil, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco, Norpac Foods and Kimberly Clark Corporation.

Overall, the $2,435,100 raised to defeat the initiative paid for a media campaign which Bender says "badly smeared" the idea of recycling - quite a sum and quite a donor list for a political mechanism once thought to safeguard the wishes of the people. The Oregon pro-recycling initative failed, corporations got a continuation on business as usual, and Oregon consumers continue to foot the bill of landfills and pollution-control efforts paid for by public funds.

Republican state Senator Linda Smith, Hazel Dell, drafted Washington's anti-tax initative 601, which called for limiting government spending to levels adjusted for inflation and population growth. Bender notes that the Christian Coalition, Pat Robertsons' powerful national Religious Right organization with a state office in Lacey, supported the measure.

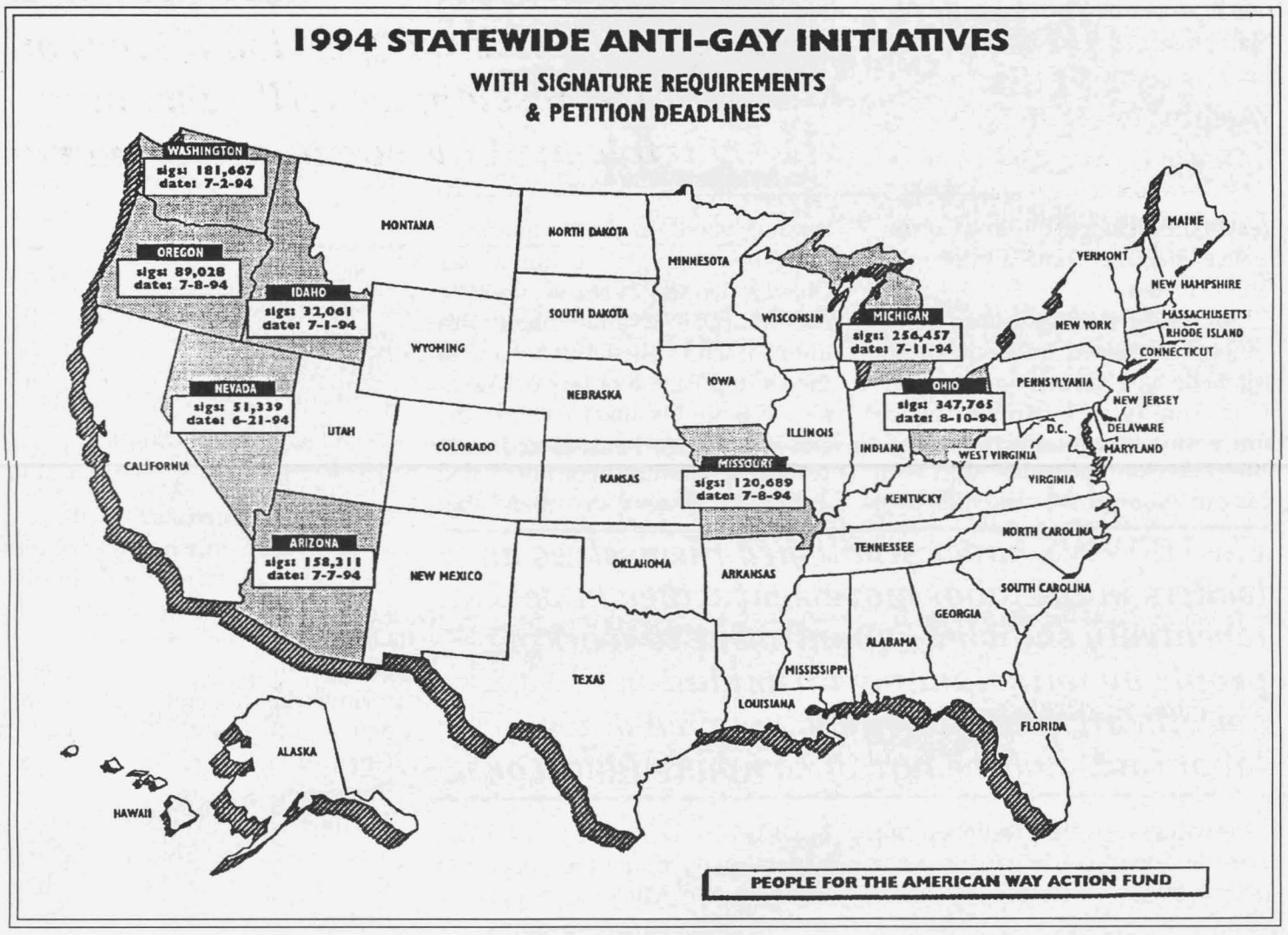
The Republican House caucus drafted 602, according to Bender. I-602 was stricter than 601, calling for a repeal of tax increases passed by the 1992 legislature and two-year sunsets on all tax increases, even when approved by a 2/3 majority vote of legislators. Alcohol and tobacco industries strongly supported the measure - to the tune of $1,372,471, according to Bender some 38% of the total raised to back 602. Without tax limitations, these corporations would have faced tax increases to pay for health care reform.

When the votes were counted in November, 1993, I-601 passed.The measure is now law. Despite 602's defeat, the major corporate support for 602 strikes a warning note about the uses to which the initiative process are presently put. Warning, and also ironic. The Washington state constitution begins with the words "All political power is inherent in the people . . ."

Many observers speculate that supporters of the anti-tax measures worked together in a two-pronged approach as part of deliberate strategy to divide opposition while making the milder proposal seem moderate. Something similar may be at work behind the two anti-gay initiatives currently in the signature-gathering phase here. While initiative sponsors deny collusion, the fact remains that one is more restrictive than the other.

If supporters of each proposed anti-gay initiative obtain the 181,000 signatures required to place the measures on the November ballot, voters will be provided a choice. According to Hands Off Washington, both 608 and 610 would repeal current laws which protect the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Olympia, Pullman, Seattle Vancouver, and King and Clallam counties, in addition to blocking the future passage of such laws and prohibiting teachers from presenting homosexuality as acceptable. I-610 - sponsored by the Citizens Alliance of Washington, an offshoot of the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), which has sponsored the passage of 20 anti-gay laws in Oregon since 1992 - would also prohibit same-sex domestic partnerships, restrict access to public library books on homosexuality, allow employers to consider sexual orientation as a factor in personnel decisions, and ban lesbians and gays from being parents in adaaptive, foster or divorce situations.

A number of organizations, including national Religious Right groups, are backing anti-gay initiatives and legislation around the country this spring. Activity in eleven states, including Washington, focuses on denying bisexual, transgender, gay and lesbian people civil rights, including the rights to employment, housing, and service in restaurants and motels, based on sexual orientation. The following summary is in part summarized from a People for the American Way report titled "Anti-Gay Initiatives and Legislation, April 1994."



Arizona

The Traditional Values Coalition, a national group based in California, has - through TVC Arizona - filed to place a referendum similar to Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 on the statewide ballott. Lou Sheldon, leader of the national TVC, has pledged $250,000 to promote the measure. The Arizona Human Rights Fund is fighting the TVC.

Florida

The state chapter of national Religious Right power American Family Association (Ed. note: the same group which has vowed to eliminate government support of PBS because they aired Armisted Maupin's *Tales of the City*) suffered a major defeat March 3 when the Florida State Supreme Court threw out a proposed statewide anti-gay constitutional amendment. However, KKK members demonstrated in support of two anti-gay initiatives which have already gathered enough signatures to be placed on the November ballot in Alachua County. The Gainesville Human Rights Council, Floridians United Against Discrimination and People for the American Way are opposing anti-gay efforts.

Idaho

The Oregon Citizens Alliance's affiliate in Idaho, the Idaho Citizens Alliance, is attempting to collect the 32,000 signatures needed to place an anti-gay initiative before voters across the state. State Attorney General Larry Echohawk has twice issued opinions against the initiative, a move which means the state of Idaho can not legally defend the anti-gay measure in court, should it pass. Idaho Voices for Human Rights is fighting the ICA, working in part under the name "Don't Sign On [to Bigotry] PAC."

Maine

Concerned Maine Familes, a state Religious Right group, failed to obtain enough signatures to place their anti-gay proposal on the November, 1994 ballot. They continue ef-

(Continued, next page)

forts for 1995. Maine's governor vetoed a civil rights bill which would have included lesbians and gay men in anti-discrimination protections, and Lewiston voters repealed civil rights protections in that city. An anti-gay leader in past state campaigns is running for governor in 1994. Pro-gay efforts are under the auspices of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance.

Michigan

A measure almost identical to Colorado's successful Amendment 2 has sparked sporadic effort from the Michigan Family Value Committee. The anti-gay effort has brought criticism even from the state's conservative Republican governor John Engler. The Triangle Foundation and the Michigan Organization for Human Rights are monitoring the situation.

Missouri

The anti-gay Amendment Coalition hopes to put a Colorado-style measure before voters in November. A number of volunteers working on the campaign openly identify with a national Religious Right power, Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition. A broad range of Missouri citizens oppose the anti-gay efforts, with Show Me Equality leading the way. Meanwhile, a bias crime ordinance which included sexual orientation was repealed in Springfield after Citizens for Decent Standards showed *The Gay Agenda* and *Gay Rights, Special Rights*, two anti-gay propoganda" videos. Local appearances by discredited anti-gay crusader Paul Cameron and Traditional Values Coalition leader Lou Sheldon bolstered anti-gay efforts.

Nevada

With the help of Oregon Citizens Alliance leader Lon Mabon, anti-gay organizers in Nevada have incoporated the Nevada Citizens Alliance and begun a statewide anti-gay campaign. Campaign For Liberty is organizing against the NCA.

Ohio

Citizens for Justice is organizing to counter the expected filing ofan anti-gay initiative by anti-pornography and anti-abortion group Ohio Pro-Family Forum.In Cincinnati, voters overwhelmingly approved an anti-gay measure - which removed sexual orientation from the city's human rights laws - in 1993,but the measure has been enjoined by a US District Court judge pending a trial on its constitutionality. The City Council voted 5-4 to retain the entire ordinance, which had been under threat of repeal. The measure protects residents from discrimination on a number of grounds, including race.

Oregon

Oregon continues to reel under the onslaught of the Oregon Citizens Alliance. Twenty cities and counties have now passed anti-gay legislation, despite a 1993 statewide law rendering such legislation illegal. Undaunted, the OCA is still attempting to generate momentum for a statewide anti-gay drive. No on 9, which opposed the OCA's efforts to pass Measure 9 in 1992, has been replaced by Support Our Communities, a Portland-based statewide organization.

Texas

An anti-gay group calling itself Concerned Texans has organized to repeal a limited domestic partnership ordinance in Austin. The Mainstream Austin Coalition is opposing their efforts.

Washington State

Oregon Citizens Alliance clone Citizens Alliance of Washington (CAW) and the Washington Committee for Equal Rights not Special Rights (backed by the Washington Public Affairs Council, headed by Doug Burman) have each filed proposed anti-gay initiatives.(Burman is the former director of the state affiliate of national Religious Right power Focus on the Family.) See above for specific information about the proposals. Conservatives succeeded in passing an anti-tax proposal in November, 1993, and Burman is a veteran of anti-abortion organizing in Washington state. Names, donors and activists obtained in these other campaigns will probably be funneled into the anti-gay campaign. Hands Off Washington, a grassroots organization with a central office in Seattle, is organizing Washingtonians to work against anti-gay efforts and for civil rights for all citizens.

The article was compiled from information provided by Hands Off Washington PO Box 4828 Seattle, WA 98104, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (1734 14th Street NW, Washington DC 20009), the Western States Center (522 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 1390, Portland, OR 97204), and the Washington Secretary of State's office (Elections Division). ✷

Social Effects of the Great Depression

Dan Slaby

The frustration that the American public feels toward destructive behavior and its inability to control or prevent violence results from the failure to correctly identify the problem. Violence is the norm for American society, not the aberration. The problem is the violence inherent in the socialization process needed to prepare individuals to survive in the individualistic and competitive socio-economic system. An important recent historical event that has contributed to the violence in socializing the competitive individual was the Great Depression. So violent was the Great Depression on the emotional make-up of the American mind, that its impact has not been discussed and the dependency it created not recognized. The Great Depression was a turning point in the history of our country and underlies the irrationality of our greatest national fear, which is the return to poverty. The remedy proposed for the Great Depression was for America to work its way out of poverty, a remedy which did not succeed until America's participation in World War II.

Until we deal with the emotional scars of the Great Depression, we will never be able to implement the social and economic changes

Our current political bashing of welfare relates directly to the fear that dependency will reduce our economic prosperity to unrecoverable levels of poverty. The fear of poverty created an addiction to work that is viewed as essential to national prosperity. This work addiction laid the foundation for dysfunctional families. The failure to see the destructive effects of work addiction resulting from the Great Depression is further reinforced by the positive myths about the virtues of work and independence espoused by society. The sense of dependency is so great in the generation of the depression that they must convince themselves that they do not need anyone at all by their illusion of independence and work ethic. Efforts to achieve a balanced life are thwarted by the irrational anxiety of the need to work to be totally independent and acquire more as a buffer against poverty. More, as the measure of success, exposes the basic addictive structure of our national mentality. The addiction to work and accumulation is the basic reason why the American public fails to see the gross injustice of fifty percent of the nation's wealth being held by only five percent of the population. It is not the poor who are hoarding the wealth of our country. Until we deal with the emotional scars of the Great Depression, we will never be able to implement the social and economic changes, including more just distributions of wealth, that are necessary to effect a recovery from the addictive work processes so rampant in the economic behaviors destructive to the social fabric of our country. ✷

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fests its self in a very unique way: the impairment of the cognitive functions of the brain, in particular, abstract thinking.

Researchers claim the reported numbers of FAS/FAE births are misleading due to the repeated failure of at least some hospital medical staffs to diagnose FAS. Even medical staff knowledge a mother's substance abuse history sometimes did not aid FAS diagnosis. Therefore, out of every one-thousand births, we can optimistically predict that only five children will show effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol.

While FAS is the number one cause of mental retardation in the United States and its victims outnumber those who have Downs syndrome or spina bifida, not all who suffer from prenatal exposure to ethanol are mentally retarded. The average IQ of FAS/FAE victims is 70 with a range of 30 - 105. Since 70 is the upper limit of the definition of mental retardation, approximately half are mentally retarded while the rest range from low to average intelligence.

One-third of victims will have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) which is the severe form that includes physical deformities, mental retardation and "neurobehavioral dysfunction (hyperactivity,motor problems, attention deficits, cognitive disabilities)." The other two-thirds will have Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE) which is used to describe those who have no physical symptoms but are "as severely brain damaged and affected as cognitively as those with FAS."

While FAE may look quite normal, they share the following symptoms with FAS victims: 1) uncontrollable impulsiveness; 2) "exceedingly poor memory;" and 3) "the inability to engage in abstract reasoning."

These disabilities cause both FAS and FAE victims many difficulties: attention deficit, hyperactivity, difficulty in seeing cause and effect or possibilities in the future, unable to learn from experience, poor judgment, unable to pick up on social cues, and difficulty in understanding the world and communicating their experiences in it to others, etc. They literally live in the present, not truly in touch with the world nor will the lack of abstract thinking allow them to imagine possibilities of what they have yet to experience.

Michael Dorris, in his book *The Broken Cord*, tells of his adopted son's lack of comprehension of death. "Adam sniffed, turned away, but not before I recognized the amused disbelief in his expression. He did not take death seriously, never had. It was an abstract concept out of his reach and therefore of no interest to him. Death was less real than Santa Claus. After all, Adam had in his album a photograph of himself seated on Santa Claus's lap."

One area where people suffering from FAS/FAE are more vulnerable than other segments of the population is in their family home. Because of the nature of their disease, they often come from dysfunctional families and the disabilities of FAS/FAE are compounded when paired with child abuse. "The adverse impact of such families on children is only recently being recognized, but at the very minimum, we know that the risk for child neglect and physical and sexual abuse is elevated. The residuals of these early traumatic experiences are felt as deeply by the intellectually handicapped as by the intellectually normal. However, the intellectually handicapped have more difficulty conceptualizing and verbalizing their experiences, and more difficulty, in general, in learning from their past experiences." (Streissguth)

By middle school, they begin getting into trouble. They have reached their peak academically and are having more difficulty "completing assignments and mastering new skills." Even though they have good verbal skills, without fully functioning cognitive skills they have difficulty communicating effectively. Because of these failures, they develop low self-esteem and may experience "depression and possibly withdrawal." Their lack of social skills is becoming more evident and is conflicting with the high need to fit in. They are starting to hang out with the "wrong crowd," those who will have them, as well as beginning to lie and steal.

Due to their "difficulty in forming and maintaining meaningful social relationships" they will also tend to seek out younger children for friends in order to "feel safe and comfortable." Burgess and Streissguth (University of Washington) caution that "as they approach puberty, . . . they may begin to experiment sexually within this same group. What could appear to be physically aggressive behavior toward younger children may be seen in a different light when one understands the dynamics of FAS/FAE."

In high school, along with their impaired cognitive skills, they are having to deal with growing up: "sexually maturity, becoming less reliant on parents, establishing areas of independence and fulfilling a role in society as an adult." The FAS/FAE victims, who are not mentally retarded, are "becoming aware that they are somehow different." Their excessive friendliness that was endearing earlier in their lifes tend to be invasive of other people's "personal space". They are "unable to develop meaningful relationships" and remain on the fringe.

FAE/FAS victims are eventually going to run into trouble with the law, maybe many times. This is especially true for the "thousands of adults [and teenagers] with FAS/FAE who were abused as children, who commit incredibly stupid, violent crimes, but also who do not realize the evil of their conduct." When they get to court, the understanding of their disability will not be there. They look normal and for the most part they act normal. It will be difficult for people to accept "how someone can completely lack judgement, be unable to foresee the consequences of an action, or fail to remember that theft, rape, and murder are wrong?" They will be found guilty, they will go to jail, and for heinous crimes, they may be sentenced to death.

David A. Davis, in his article "A New Insanity: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome", states that "appearing in criminal courts around the nation is a new type of criminal defendant, one who commits crimes, often senselessly and of incredible ferocity that shock the sensibilities of judges and juries and result in these defendants receiving the harshest penalties possible, including, when murder is involved, a death sentence."

"When examined by mental health experts, they have typically been labeled as sociopaths or possessing an anti-social personality disorder. Over the past 20 years there has, however, emerged a new explanation for why certain people commit such atrocious crimes with apparent indifference to what they have done."

Mr. Davis goes on to suggest that FAE/FAS victims are legally insane according to the M'Naghten test. The M'Naghten test states that:

A person is considered insane when:

1. He had a mental infirmity, disease or defect.

2. Because of that condition

a. He did not know what he was doing or its consequences or

b. Although he knew what he was doing and its consequences, he did not know it was wrong.

Under the first part, FAE/FAS victims qualify because they are brain damaged.

For the second part they qualify because "although they intend to commit a criminal act, the typical FAS defendant has little or no judgment ability, no abstract reasoning skills, and poor memory necessary to foresee or understand the consequences." In addition, "this is coupled with the general inability to control impulses."

"When the FAS afflicted person commits a criminal act, what is right or wrong is irrelevant to that person and hence unconsidered. At some later time, the defendant may acknowledge that the act was wrong, but at the crucial time when the crime was committed, the defendant did not have such knowledge. The damaged brain simply did not consider the correctness of the acts."

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects is a disease for which there is no cure, the brain is irreversibly damaged and it is unlikely that an FAS adult can ever live and work independently. Because the "FAS child/adult lacks the internal structure or ability to learn self-control, the only treatment that seems to work is to provide discipline or structure by external means."

One might argue that prison can provide that structure. However, prisons are not meant to be housing for the intellectually or mentally disabled, they were meant for punishment and "rehabilitation." These individuals are not mentally competent to be held responsible for their actions, and of course, we know they will never be rehabilitated.

FAS/FAE victims don't do what they do because of some inner voice's desire to do harm for evil's sake. They're bouncing around in a world that often makes little sense to them. They're just doing the best they can, as we all do. If this doesn't ease your fears, good. We need to find solutions to this problem for everyone's sake. ✷

". . . state and local governments should avoid any measures defining alcohol or other drug use during pregnancy as "prenatal child abuse", and should avoid prosecution, jail or other punitive measures as a substitute for providing effective health services for these women."

Peterson Zah, The Navajo Nation

"People with FAS and FAE may be more likely to commit crimes because they do not recognize that, if they are caught, they will be punished."

Anne M. Walker

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Before the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Effects of Pre-natal Exposure to Alcohol

Michael Dorris

The following was testimony before the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the course of this Committee's deliberations of this Bill, you will hear the testimony of many experts on the effects of pre-natal exposure to alcohol. These women and men will describe to you the biochemical processes by which ethanol impedes the natural growth of the brain, malforms bones and organs, deprives the fetus of sustenance, and participates in the creation of human beings — if indeed miscarriage does not occur — who are substantively less than they otherwise might have been.

You will hear the pleas of counselors, psychologists, and social workers who will detail the lifelong struggles of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome victims: how long it takes them to learn simple tasks, how many repetitions it takes before an act becomes natural, how vulnerable in the world are persons who suffer from impaired judgment, how dependent they are upon the good faith and resources of others, how irreversible is their condition once it has been set in motion.

You will hear from doctors that FAS and FAE are, in all probability, this nation's #1 cause of mental retardation, how the symptoms multiply and compound over a lifetime, how they thwart every therapy and treatment. Frustrated teachers, parents, and case workers will tell you how hard they've tried, and with such minimal results, to change a direction which, in an earlier time, might have been termed the "fate" of damaged infants. The word "tragedy" will be invoked, and certainly this is a tragedy because its implications are beyond the control of those it most directly affects. The word "disgrace" will be discussed, for truly the neglect, the lack of national attention, the reluctance we as a people have shown to commit the resources that might lead to eradication of FAS brings us all shame.

FAS and FAE victims will be labeled "innocent", "potentially dangerous", "pitiful" — and it's all true. But for the course of my testimony, I propose that you forget them. Write off the tens of thousands of FAs and FAE babies born every year, concede them their miseries and complications. They can't be helped. They're a silent and poor constituency. They would drive anyone crazy, and after all they will wind up homeless, in jail, or like my son Abel, dead at an early age. By the time they attain adolescence, if indeed they ever do, they rarely remain the adorable, affectionate innocents they once were. They lose their power to charm, to instill tender feelings in their caregivers. They're society's discards, walking wounded with no place to go. In another century they were hidden away in dark attics, locked in grim institutions. We do it simpler and cheaper now: we just close our eyes when we pass them on the street or when we encounter them, asleep under a blanket of used newspapers, on park benches.

So for the next five minutes, let's do what most of us always do anyway — let's think about ourselves. What are the implications to us of not doing something to stem the increase in FAS and FAE by providing a few more beds, of making prenatal care for chemically dependent women a bit more accessible? What's in it for me?

And here's the surprise: it's in no citizen's best interest to avoid dealing with his problem. FAS wages a constant toil on the financial resources of every taxpayer, because no victim of the full range of FAS symptoms becomes self-supporting. The common estimate is that it takes about a million dollars of somebody's money to enable one FAS baby to survive through adulthood, but in truth, it would be cheap at that price. How does one affix a dollar amount to the drain on idealism, the frustration, the despair that an FAS victim inadvertently distributes to everyone he or she meaningfully encounters? How many teachers have stopped teaching, become cynical or self-doubting, after a year in a classroom with a student damaged by prenatal exposure to their jobs or not advanced to the level they might have attained because their energies must be devoted to a chronically sick child? How many of us have simply given up, surrendered in the face of a mountain of woes we can't ameliorate?

In the course of raising three children each affected to varying extents with FAE, I have seen this happen time and again to special ed teachers, principals, deans, counselors, physicians. Initially enthusiastic and optimistic that they could help my sons or daughter, their surety has turned to doubt, their solutions turned to anger and, eventually, to apathy. They, too, are victims of this scourge.

Add to them the classmates who learned early on to mistrust anything my children said, who were consistently ripped of their toys and walkmans, who learned before they should have had to learn to be wary of their fellow man. And now that my children are grown, the army of those affected has expanded to include landlords, social service personnel, customers, store proprietors, dorm counselors, employers, foster families. No one encounters an FAS or FAE victim and comes out of the experience completely intact. Something is lost. The material objects can be, with enough money, replaced. The spiritual or psychological values and concepts, are gone forever. These people will be less likely to offer help to another person the next time; they will be more suspicious, less tolerant, more protective of themselves. As this happens to us more and more as a people we become less a people and more a collection of ensularities. We lose the bond of community so necessary for our collective survival.

And so, not on behalf of my children, the victims of FAS or FAE, but on behalf of their victims — past, present and future — I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Stop the individual chain reaction before it starts. Help chemically dependent women, many of them the daughters of FAS of FAE mothers, not replicate the error, not perpetuate a syndrome which they themselves may suffer.

Don't be compassionate today and in the months. ahead. Be self-interested. ✷

"How do we teach compassion for a growing class of people who are likely to exhibit neither pity, nor gratitude, who take everything society has of offer and have almost nothing constructive to give back?"

Michael Dorris

Olympia Movement For Justice and Peace

Tuesday May 10 & 24
7-9:30 TESC LIB2218
Everyone Welcome

On Tuesday May 17, Ann Braden and Connie Tucker of Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice (SOC) will be speaking in Olympia. SOC is a southern wide multi-issue, multi-racial network working against racism, war, economic injustice, and environmental destruction, linking these issues together.

Ann Braden has worked with southern civil rights, civil liberties, peace and labor movements for 45 years. Ann is founder and current co-chair of SOC.

Current executive director of SOC became active in black liberation rights in the '60s and has been a leader in SOC's environmental justice and the youth task force.

They will be speaking of the organizing experience and activism at noon at the TESC Library and at 7:30pm at the Olympia Timberland Library, downtown.

This event is sponsored by the Labor Center, the Peace Center, and OMJP.

For more info call Peter at 866-6000 x6431.

Systematic Causes of Violence
Making Connections and Strategizing Cures

Speaker/Discussion Leader: Glen Anderson

Sunday, May 15 3-5pm

St. John's Episcopal Church 19th and S. Capitol Way

The public forum is the final part of a series on the Causes of Violence. Since September 1993, Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has been looking at causes of violence stemming from gender inequalities, religious, ethnic and nationalistic intolerance and the cultivation of violence in the media and society. The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has also been looking for solutions to the causes of violence.

On Sunday the FOR will look at how government policies allow and encourage violence and how they can lessen violence as well as what people can do to overcome fear caused by government action or public impression. It will tie together information learned from earlier forums and strategize cures.

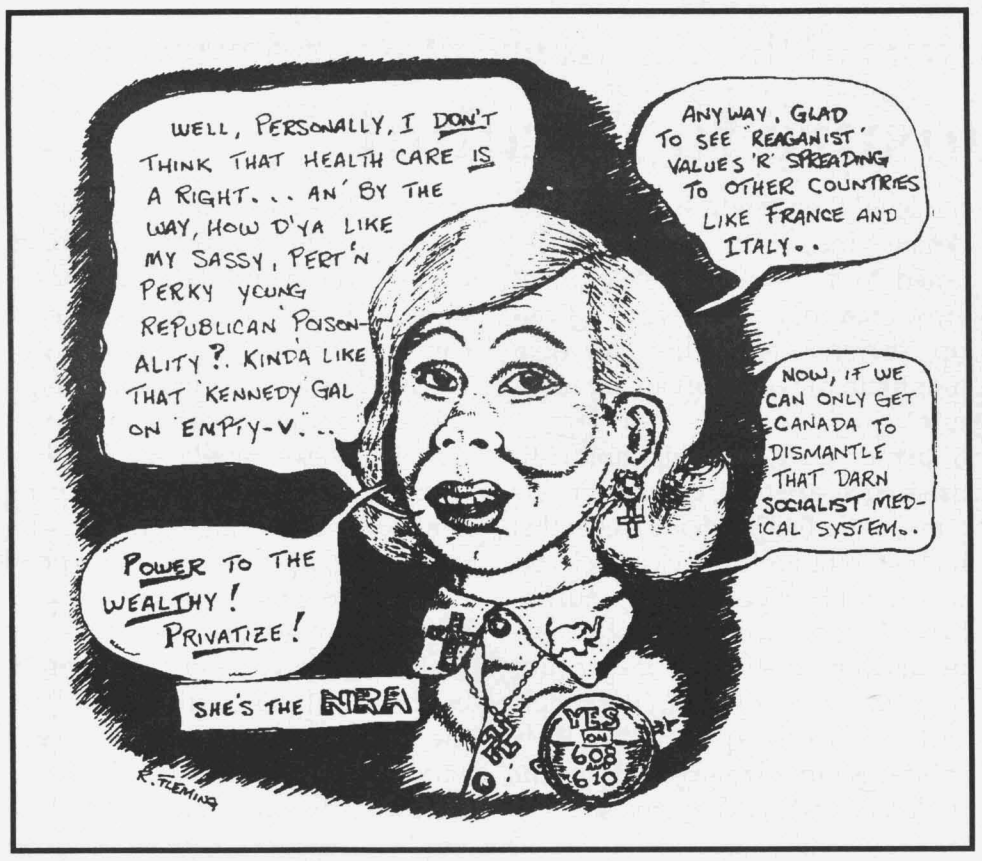
Speaker and discussion facilitator for the public forum will be Glen Anderson. Glen is a long-time peace and justice activist who has coordinated the Olympia FOR for 18 years. He represents the Northwest on National Fellowship of Reconciliation's National Council (Board of Directors).

He hosts a monthly FOR television series on TCTV.

Glen says, "The public forum will be brainstorming by participants on the governmental and other systemic causes of violence and how we can make connections and plan and implement cures."

The public forum is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For info call 491-9093.


WELL, PERSONALLY, I DON'T THINK THAT HEALTH CARE IS A RIGHT... AN' BY THE WAY, HOW D'YA LIKE MY SASSY, PERT'N PERKY YOUNG REPUBLICAN POISON-ALITY?. KINDA LIKE THAT KENNEDY GAL ON EMPTY-V...
ANYWAY, GLAD TO SEE 'REAGANIST' VALUES 'R' SPREADING TO OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE AND ITALY..
NOW, IF WE CAN ONLY GET CANADA TO DISMANTLE THAT DARN SOCIALIST MED-ICAL SYSTEM..
POWER TO THE WEALTHY! PRIVATIZE!
SHE'S THE NRA
YES
608
610
R. FLEMING

Leonard Peltier Support Calendar

May 5, 1994 7:00 pm

Leonard Peltier support group meeting, Olympia
TESC, Main Campus, Library Building, First Floor, Rm 1600
Open to all Leonard Peltier supporters

May 15, 1994 2:30 pm

Leonard Peltier support group, Seattle
Seattle Pike Place Senior Center
1931 1st Ave (entrance on Virginia Street)
Open to all Leonard Peltier supporters

May 21, 1994 6:00 am

6:00 am Youth for Leonard Peltier Run/Walk Sunrise Ceremony

6:30 am - 12:00 pm Youth Run/Walk for Justice for Leonard Peltier
For sign-up sheets and for more information write to L.P.S.G. Tacoma, PO Box 5464, Tacoma, WA 98415-0464 or call 206 3838-9108.

12:00 pm Leonard Peltier March on the State Capital
Starting Point - Sylvester Park (Legion Way and Capital)

1:00 pm Rally at the State Capital, Olympia

May 17-29

Western Washington Native American Invitational Art Show and Sale
Sherwwod Inn, 8402 S. Hosmer, Tacoma
Friday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Admission by donation
For more information call (206) 593-0784

June 11-12

Proposed "International Walk to the Border for Justice for Leonard Peltier". The idea is for supporters from Canada to walk down from the north and supporters from the U.S. to walk up from the south and meet at the border for an international rally in support of Peltier.

June 25-26

Leonard Peltier Weekend in Washington, D.C.

For more information on any of these events or to get on th the NW Leonard Peltier support Mailing list please write to: L.P.S.G.-Tacoma, PO Box 5464, Tacoma, WA 98415-07464, or call 206 383-9108 ask for Arthur J. Miller (in Tacoma) or call Wendy Selena Orr 206 365-8691 (in Seattle). It is very important for those who can to show up at the support meetings to help plan these events. We only have a few more months to raise support for Leonard's clemency!
For information on how to get a speaker for your group or to send a donation (there is a great need of a typewriter) please write or call: Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Group Network, c/o Steve Robideau, 1738 E. Kent, Tacoma, WA 98404, 206 471-1670.

Please get this information out to groups, publications and to anyone who can help!

Thank you in the spirit of Crazy Horse.

March on the State Capital

"A Spiritual March and Rally in Support of Leonard Peltier"

May 21, 1994, Olympia

12:00 —March—Starting point, Sylvester Park (Legion Way & Capital)
1:00 —Rally—Washington State Capital

Speakers: Joan Staples, Moderator, Tahoma Indian Center
Dorrean Booth-Williams, Pax Christic award Winner, 1993
Ray Williams, Swinomish
Tyree Scott, Human Rights Activist, Board Chair, NW Labor & Employment Law Office
Leroy Mills, Survival of American Indian Association
Juan Jose Bocanegra, Downtown Human Services Council-Seattle, Longtime Farm Worker & Latino Activist
Gary Galbreath, Pomo Nation, Community Activist
Steve Robideau, NW Leonard Peltier Support Group Network
Tiokasin Veaux, Lakota Student Activist
Arthur J. Miller, Leonard Peltier Support Group-Tacoma

For more information: (206) 471-1670. PO Box 5464, Tacoma, WA

It Was A Tie

Woman wears a tie
Men and boys stare
Wonder why
Wasn't that part of
Feminism of the '70s
So is she doing it now
To make a statement
Or does she simply like ties
I like green plaid ties myself
Does she think she's a man?
Does she want to be
You know it's that
Penis envy think Fraud
Told us about when he
Was rejecting the prevalence
Of childhood abuse because it
Was too unbelievable
No, women wear ties
Because they like to
Wear ties.

So, the next time you see
A woman wearing a tie
Don't stare
Respect that she feels good
Enough about herself
To share it with the
World by wearing a tie
And not to be labeled
About what to wear by you.

Sonya Bedillion

proposal that the Task Force approved. This fact compels us to ask ourselves: how can the homeless ever develop a sense of empowerment if not entrusted with the resources to have a say in their own governance?

Any answer we can formulate may prove to be a long way off from being enacted. If local gossip around town is to be construed as an accurate barometer of public opinion, SCHEMe has, evidently, expended a sizeable chunk of political capital by allowing many of its members to openly support the encampment at Sylvester Park. Then again, they likely would have never earned the trust of the homeless themselves, and gotten the Federal Building proposal off the ground, if they hadn't stepped on some toes.

But that's up to you to decide. Will we, as a community, support this project or not? If you want to be counted as supporting the homeless, you can't afford to simply do nothing any longer. Like educator Paulo Friere has stated so well, "Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral."

If you wish to support the Federal Building transitional housing proposal, you are urged to write a letter of support to Jeff Robinson, WSHAP, Dept. Community, Trade, and Economic Development 9th and Columbia Olympia, WA 98504-4151. It will be submitted to the Housing Trust Fund along with the development team's grant application. Do it NOW. ✷

WIP Schedule

WIP Article submission deadline is

Wednesday, May 18

Also on that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH (218 Fourth Ave) at 7 pm. Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, May 24

Call 705-2726 for place

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